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SINGAPORE CUP STARS UNWANTED



□ JIMMY CAMPBELL



□ PHIL O'CONNOR



□ JOE WATSON

KB UNITED SURVIVE

BY MYLES HAY

AFTER weeks of worrying conjecture, the directors of Newcastle KB United announced yesterday that a team will be fielded in this year's NSL competition.

A demand by the NSL management committee that certain qualifications must be met by 5 pm tomorrow (Wednesday) will be answered in the affirmative.

An emergency meeting with the directors of the Northern NSW Federation was held on Sunday regarding repayment of a loan from that body.

This matter has been resolved and, when ratified by the NSL tomorrow, Newcastle can get down to the urgent task of signing their players.

The players, who have been in "no man's land" over recent weeks, have been training solidly under coach Ken Kaiser, but it has not been possible to arrange trial matches because officially the players would not have been covered by insurance.

Discussions have been held with star striker David Lowe and his parents in Newcastle, and it is believed that, like the vast majority of his team-mates, he wants to remain with the club.

Marconi coach Les Scheinflug was hoping to talk to Lowe this week to attempt to sign him for the Sydney NSL club.

The tremendous team spirit shown last season, followed by the further cementing of relationships during the tour of the USA, has created strong support.

UP FOR GRABS!

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

THREE players who scored brilliant goals for Australia in the final of the Merlion Cup in Singapore have not had acceptable offers for the 1984 season.

The careers of gong) and Jimmy Joe Watson (Sydney City), Phil Campbell (Heidelberg) are up in the air.

Watson, voted the top player in the National League only a few months ago, has not re-signed for Sydney City.

He has had an offer from the Slickers but does not think it is big enough and has refused to accept.

"I am ready to listen to offers from any club," said Watson when I spoke to him.

O'Connor, voted the top player in NSW, is another of the Merlion Cup stars out on a limb.

He has refused to accept the terms Wollongong Wolves are offering and has been given per-

mission to talk to any potential buyers.

But Wollongong coach Adrian Alston says: "Although Phil has been in touch with a few clubs, we have not had any firm transfer offer for him."

Campbell, rated by many people the best midfielder in Australia, is in dispute with his club, Heidelberg United and faces an uncertain future.

Heidelberg are ready to sell him for \$30,000 but, at that figure, there have been no takers.

So three of the players who did so much to bring international success and glory to Australia in De-

cember, now appear to be unwanted men!

Probably before the NSL kick-off in March, they will be fixed up: but right now, they face a very uncertain future.

By the way, another of the big names from Australia's successful safari to Singapore, Peter Katholos of Sydney Olympic, has been on offer for the past couple of weeks at the bargain price of \$11,000 without being fixed up. But in his case there was a happy ending a few days ago when Katholos decided to resign for Olympic.

JOHNSON JOINS ASW

MIKE JOHNSON, former English professional player and coach of St George, Apia-Leichhardt, West Adelaide and others top clubs has joined AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY.

Johnson, a qualified journalist, will contribute a weekly column, further strengthening ASW's stable of experienced, knowledgeable writers.

His first column appears on Page 3 of the issue of your favourite Soccer paper.

Read Mike Johnson this week — and every week.

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EDITORIAL

THERE is a great wave of optimism sweeping through Soccer as the countdown begins for the new season.

We have lost count of the number of people who have told us, with the confidence of skilful clairvoyants, that 1984 will be the year when this greatest game of all makes a serious challenge to other codes.

It is difficult to explain the buoyant optimism. After all, Soccer in Australia has been consistently declining as a public spectacle for too many years.

After the initial euphoria associated with the National League in its first couple of years, crowds have deteriorated alarmingly.

Match attendances of 500 or less, dropping even as low as 100, were registered in the NSL last year. That is not the ideal scenario to inspire the present optimistic outlook.

Yet AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY is inclined to share the feeling that 1984 could see the downward curve of the graph halted and the long climb back starting.

Perhaps the excellent attendances at St George Stadium in the past week or so are partly responsible for the confidence. When more than 6,000 paying customers patronise a friendly tournament involving four Sydney teams — on a day when so many roads led to the beach — it does indicate that the fans are eager for the season proper to kick-off.

The new set-up in the National League also has to be a winner. ASW has pleaded for years for the system to be changed, with more local derby games and an essential reduction in wasteful air fares.

It has taken the NSL a long time to accept this, but better late than never.

We were even accused of being "negative" or "anti-Soccer" when we campaigned for changes in the NSL set-up, but changes are now here.

The new system is not perfect but it'll do for starters and it is certainly vastly superior to what it replaces.

The shortage of money in many clubs may not be all bad news. It could mean that wealthy clubs of the past, like Sydney City, South Melbourne and St George, are no longer able to snap up the few star players available. This should bring a levelling-up in standards.

If success can no longer be bought, the possibility of a team like Sydney City running away with the championship becomes an unlikely proposition.

One other fringe benefit of the cash shortage is that clubs will be forced to search for young local talent, finding, rather than buying, their players.

That has to be good news for Les Scheinflug as he builds the Australian Youth squad for another tilt at the Coca-Cola Cup.

ASW looks forward keenly to the new season.

We do not expect a huge upsurge in crowd support, producing the sort of attendances which, around 1959 and 1960, were big enough to cause even the giants of Rugby League in Sydney to fret and lose their sleep.

But we will be desperately disappointed if the NSL crowds do not improve dramatically on the 1983 figures.

DAVID MITCHELL playing for Australia against West Germany in the 1981 World Youth Cup



DAVID MITCHELL TARGET FOR ADELAIDE CITY

BY TOM MCKAIN

ADELAIDE CITY will try to sign Socceroo striker David Mitchell, now with Scotland's Rangers, for six guest matches during the UK close season.

When the former Adelaide City and Sydney City striker joined Rangers, he was given an assurance he would be released to guest in Australia as well as play for the Socceroo.

"We are looking for a personality to bring back the crowds, and we think Mitchell could do it," said City football manager Bob D'Ottavi.

"We have been in touch with David's father and he will negotiate for us; then we will talk to David."

All Mitchell's relations in Australia are in Adelaide and he is keen to visit them during the close season.

"We know other clubs want David as a guest but we are hoping that his Adelaide ties will swing his signature in our favour," said D'Ottavi.

"We are also looking for a permanent experienced star and have not given up hope of signing Jan Kierno from Polonia."

Kierno, brought out from Poland two years ago, is a class midfielder who won last year's Rothmans Medal in the SA State League First Division.

Polonia want to retain him and at one stage, it was reported he would be sent back to Poland if he did not play for the State League club this season.

"We will continue to have talks with Polonia," said D'Ottavi.

"Apart from Kierno, we

are hoping Polonia's contacts in Poland will be able to provide us with one or two top players.

"Compared to importing Italian or British players, the Poles are a lot cheaper, and if Kierno is an example, they can do just as good a job for us as more expensive imports."

Most Polish-backed clubs in Australia can bring players from their home country at reasonable fees — provided they play for a Polish-based club.

It remains to be seen what Polish officials' reactions will be to City's plan.

COLLINS' HIGH HOPES FOR STATE LEAGUERS

BY BERNIE HARRIS

CANBERRA Arrows coach Doug Collins has announced his second new signing.

He is 21-year-old Hilton Phillips, who came to Australia from Liverpool two years ago and who has spent his period in this country with NSW Second Division team Warringah-Narrabeen.

In his two seasons with the seaside team, Phillips was leading scorer, notching 25 goals.

His original club was Fulham.

Collins said that he had had Phillips under his attention for the last year and that wherever his career took him he was determined Phillips would be a part of his 1984 squad. So, Marconi's loss will be Canberra's gain.

Phillips joins another State League player, Andrew Brockbank, who signed with the Arrows several weeks ago.

Collins describes Brockbank, who played with Ku-ring-gai last season, as the best left-side player in Australia.

Without any apologies for his enthusiasm, Collins added that in Phillips he had acquired a player who would prove very exciting to local fans.

"The boy has beautiful skills. I'm particularly impressed with the way he turns players," Collins said.

"He will surprise a lot of people when they see just what he is capable of."

Collins continued: "As with Brockbank, people will ask: 'Where did he come from? In my opinion, they will demonstrate the value of good scouting.'"

Collins will have Phil-

EUROPEANS ON THE WAY

BY KEITH GILMOUR

REST assured that the first choice for top-class European clubs to tour in June will be restricted to England, Scotland, Italy and Greece.

ASF commercial director Peter Sheean is in London now completing the contracts. Four clubs are required.

Manchester United, Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, Glasgow Rangers, Udinese, Inter-Milan, Aris Salonika and Spain's Real Madrid are amongst those on the shopping list.

Sheean also must tidy up which clubs will give Australia return matches in November-December.

The aim is to get away from those embarrassing last-minute scrambles for games that cheapened

Socceroo tours on previous occasions.

The National Soccer League has completed a trade-off with the Australian Federation. June 1984 will be free from League matches, apart from deferred games and the National Soccer Cup series.

The return benefit is that no overseas teams will be brought into the country by the ASF at any other time of the year.

The other London task is to get the 1985 tours into the pipeline. This forward planning is as welcome as it is long overdue.

ARIS BOOST CENTENARY

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

ARIS of Salonika will tour Australia in June to take part in the Victorian Soccer Federation Centenary celebrations.

Victorian Federation officials confirmed to ASW that Aris had accepted the invitation and will bring out all of its star players.

Currently in the top four of the Greek championship, Aris is making a bold bid for the title.

Aris has a very strong following in Australia and its appearance should generate great spectator interest.

This is the second time the team has been invited to Australia.

Last year a private promoter had agreed to bring Aris to Australia but the Australian Soccer Federation vetoed the tour.

Victorian Soccer Federation president John Dimtsis said that Aris had agreed to appear in Australia once the Greek championships were over.



John Dimtsis.



STRANGE STORY OF TWO KEEPERS

CHRIS HUMMEL saves the day for Canberra in 1983. INSET: TONY FRANKEN, the player who wants Hummel's spot this year.

HUMMEL VERSUS FRANKEN

BY BERNIE HARRIS

AUSTRALIA'S World Youth Championship goalkeeper, Tony Franken, will take over as Canberra Arrows first choice this year, replacing Steve Hoszowski.

That decision, made by new coach Doug Collins, will not be welcome news to Chris Hummel.

Indeed Hummel must be wondering if Franken is destined to haunt him for the rest of his Soccer career!

This is the second time Franken has leap-frogged over Hummel in the past year.

When Australia's Youth squad travelled to Mexico last May for the World Championship, Chris was firmly installed as first string goalie. Tony went along as reserve, believing he would not even get a game in the series.

But after a couple of warm-up games in Costa Rica, coach Les Scheinflug made the surprise decision to select Franken in the opening Cup game against Mexico in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

Hummel was out. And Franken played like a man inspired in front of more than 100,000 spectators, holding out a superior Mexican side to give Australia a valuable 1-1 draw.

After that, Franken grew in stature and confidence and earned top billing as, possibly, Australia's best player in the series.

At club level, Chris Hummel, having been understudy to Hoszowski with the Arrows, finally broke through for the first team goalkeeping spot in the last few games of the 1983 season.

He was entitled to feel he had at last made it.

Then Canberra bought Tony Franken, who had been playing with the Institute of Sport team in the Youth League.

And coach Collins installed the hero of Mexico as his top goalie.

Collins said on radio recently that he had not made up his mind about the number two goalkeeping spot, but Hummel was told he could train with the squad and seek to impress Collins.

Arrows coach says he has until March 4, the date of the National League opening round, to settle on his second string goalkeeper.

It goes without saying that there is now intense competition between these two young goalkeepers who both wish to impress Collins.

This must be good for Canberra Arrows... even if Chris Hummel may have reservations about it.

RASIC A VICTIM OF CHANGE

CHANGE is inevitable and in modern life it occurs ever more rapidly.

Yet to find a Soccer season starting without Rale Rasic is indeed a change.

I met Rale at an insurance seminar recently.

He has stepped into the insurance industry and out of Soccer, disillusioned with his experiences at South Melbourne last year.

They say that you cannot call yourself a coach until you have experienced what it is like to lose your position.

I shall be surprised if Rasic is not back in Soccer sometime this season, or next.

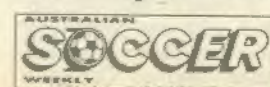
I stepped out of Soccer myself during last year, but am now back in coaching and writing again.

We welcome Les Scheinflug back to club coaching again this year, with Marconi.

Les and I both began our coaching careers in 1969.

This gives us 14 years coaching experience, which is an achievement in itself in the world of Australian professional Soccer coaching.

This experience is



matched by Rasic and Leichhardt's Fil Bottalico.

However it pales in comparison with the 30-plus years of coaching experience amassed by the doyen of Australian coaching, Frank Arok.

Arok and St George will be hard to stop this year.

Wollongong Wolves new coach, Adrian Alston, in contrast to Arok, will start his first stint of

MIKE JOHNSON



coaching in Australia this year.

This year welcomes back Raul Blanco into the top sphere of club coaching, at Melita.

Atti Abonyi's return to Sydney will also be watched with much interest at Croatia, a club

which has been straining for the chance to match itself with the best in Australian Soccer.

POLE TIPPED FOR LIONS

BY GREG RUSSELL

HIGHLY-QUALIFIED Polish coach Jerzy Wrzos appears to have the inside running for the Brisbane Lions coaching job.

Lions officials interviewed the former Poland World Cup assistant coach at the weekend and the club is expected to name its new coach tomorrow night.

Although the officials were concerned about possible language barriers with Wrzos, a Polish refugee who has been in Sydney, they believe he could offer the best chance of continuity after the shock decision by Simon Kistemaker not to return from Holland.

Kistemaker was a stern

disciplinarian with the young Lions team and attempted to get his side to play a European style of short passing and tactical build-ups.

Wrzos' background and qualifications — he has written two books for UEFA — have prompted the Lions officials to believe the Pole will have a similar style to Kistemaker.

Wrzos' qualifications are second to none in Australia and he has been on the short-list for a number of positions, in-

cluding the Sydney Croatia job and a director of coaching position in Queensland.

But it is understood his present limited English has gone against his applications.

If Wrzos gets the nod at Lions, the club intends to overcome the language barrier by appointing an English-speaking team manager, probably someone who already has a close liaison with the players and club.

But the coaching appointment is by no means

a one-horse race.

Lions have approached former West Adelaide coach Alan Vest, now in Perth and also have spoken to Ku-ring-gai's Harry Noon, who was recommended by several Sydney identities.

A number of Queensland coaches also have expressed interest in the position and Lions officials are faced with a decision of either appointing a stop-gap coach on a one-year contract or go for something more long-term.

YOUNG MANLY MISS CHANCES

BY JAMES COSTELLO

SUTHERLAND Sharks overcame a determined challenge from youthful Manly Warringah to win their opening Ampol Cup fixture 2-0 at Seymour Shaw Park.

Manly, despite fielding only five members of their 1983 first grade side, fully stretched the perennially strong Sutherland side, and indeed would have enjoyed a half-time lead if newcomers Etherington and Marinkovic had not squandered good scoring chances.

Sutherland took the lead, however, after eight minutes when Cashman squared the ball across the Manly six-yard box for the veteran Dal Forno to clinically volley home from close range.

Manly outpointed Sutherland during the remainder of the half, with the experienced Bruce Doyle and John Dick snuffing out the Sutherland attack.

The Sharks managed to force a number of corners in the latter stages of the half, but Manly goalkeeper Chris Cassettari was as steady as ever, despite the added problems created by the sub-standard lighting.

Sutherland settled down in the second half with the lively Groome and Hargrave creating problems for the Manly defence.

Twelve minutes into the period, the Sharks were awarded a free-kick on the left wing following a foul on Cooper. Harrington's low free-kick was cleverly dummied for Hargrave to drive the ball past Cassettari from eight metres to put Sutherland into a 2-0 lead.

Manly coach Richard Alagich immediately replaced Marinkovic with Paul Vale, who provided more thrust for the sedate Manly forward-line.

Sutherland almost increased their lead 20 minutes from the end, when Craig Rogers collected the

ball to slam past Cassettari, only to have the "goal" disallowed in a dubious offside decision.

Sutherland, best served by Dal Forno, Harrington and Groome, will be pleased with the victory, although the side, understandably in their first outing, performed well below 1983 form.

Manly should be happy with their showing, in which Doyle, Robbie Stuart and young Paul Jurgens (prior to being injured), were the pick.

POLONIA WIN IN AN UPSET

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

POLONIA caused the first shock of the season by defeating more fancied opponents Avala 2-0 in the first round of the Ampol Cup at Melita Stadium.

Polonia now go on to meet Blacktown City in the second round on Friday night at Marconi Stadium.

Avala looked to be well in control for the first 20 minutes but Polonia soon got back into the game and continued to assert their superiority through to the final whistle.

Blacktown City must wish they never allowed Scott Lumsden to leave and join Polonia during the off-season. He con-



tinually toyed with the Avala defence, making probing runs forward.

He was rewarded with the first goal in the 27th minute following good lead-up work from Irak Garlowski.

Andy Greenfield, the Polonia keeper saved his side on a number of occasions with some spectacular and fine one-on-one saves.

Henry Sobczyk put the issue beyond doubt and with just three minutes remaining he confidently drove into goal.

GOALS: Polonia (Lumsden 27, Sobczyk 77).

YOUNG BERRIES TAME ROCKDALE

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE meet Sydney City in the second round of the NSW Ampol Cup after they convincingly defeated Rockdale 5-3 at Melita Stadium.

Rockdale, newly-promoted to the First Division of the State League, looked jaded against their youthful opponents.

Canterbury fielded only six of their regular first grade players from last year. New signing from Sydney Olympic Louis Dounis had an impressive

debut for his new club.

The Berries had a commanding 3-1 lead at half-time after Philipiou, Dounis and Pettas scored. Rockdale's goal was scored from the penalty spot by Smith.

Second half substitute Chris Thannidis put the Berries further ahead with a fine solo goal.

Rockdale fought back to 4-3 but Dounis put the issue beyond doubt with a well executed goal that left the opposing goalkeeper, Kotzohambos stranded.



URUGUAYAN FINDS NET IN DEBUT

BY BRAD EARL

A LONG-standing tradition in Australian Soccer was buried in the close-season.

Auburn, one of the first clubs to be established in Sydney, have long been

identified by their green and gold strip.

But now, Australia's

national colours have been replaced by that of Uruguay.

Auburn Uruguay made their debut in the NSW Ampol Cup, winning 1-0 over Inter-Monaro.

It was one of the new Uruguayan players — wearing the light blue shirt of his home country's national team — who scored the only goal.

Julio Terre, who had only been on the field for two minutes after half-time, brought the ball down on his chest and volleyed home from 15 metres following a corner-kick.

In a scrappy match, both teams consisted largely of inexperienced young players.

The only other real scoring chances came to Inter-Monaro in the second half. Monterosso had two chances to finish off in the 50th minute, but failed to take advantage of his good positioning, and with six minutes to go Ray Colbertaldo hit a brilliant curling shot which was well-saved by the Auburn keeper Carlos Rosano.

nents' inexperience.

Bankstown National fielded two forwards, Hassan and El-Husseini,

who were obviously enjoying the step up to State League level, even if their inexperience showed.

It was a strong run by Hassan that led to the goal. Six minutes before half-time, he was grabbed and held down by Mortlock of Ku-ring-gai as he tried to reach the ball in the penalty area.

Midfielder Jim Meerbani put Bankstown National into the lead from the penalty spot.

The second half saw a more spirited effort from the more experienced Ku-ring-gai side, but there was some good defensive work from the Bankstown National defence.

YUGAL BEAT WARRINGAH

YUGAL defeated Warringah-Narrabeen 2-0 in the first round of the 1984 Ampol Cup.

It appeared from the start that the team which could outlast the heat and furious pace would move through to the second round.

Throughout the first half both goalkeepers, Peter Berry, of Yugal, and Craig Carlisle, of Warringah-Narrabeen, were rarely tested. Warringah had more attacking chances but preferred to run the ball in rather than test the goalkeeper with shots from outside the penalty box. The game remained scoreless at half time.

Warringah-Narrabeen could so easily have taken the lead within 15 seconds of the start of the second half. A clinical kick off move sent Warringah full-back Brett Beverly tear-

BY KENNY SANSOM

ing down the right flank but his pin-point cross failed to meet with a touch from any of Warringah's incoming forwards.

Yugal took the lead in the 51st minute when a ball was crossed into the Warringah penalty box. A mix-up in defence allowed Rokoderea a free header to score the first goal.

From that moment, Yugal seemed to grow in confidence and the relatively inexperienced Warringah side tired.

Yugal's second goal came in similar circumstances. A defensive error allowed Pahor to score midway through the second half. The pattern of the game changed little

MURPHY DECIDES WRESTLING BOUT

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

SOUTH Melbourne launched their 1984 campaign in earnest with a narrow 1-0 win over Green Gully in the opening round of the Buffalo Golden Cup.

International midfielder Kenny Murphy planted the ball in the back of the net with a 40 metre pile driver in the second half and gave Gully keeper Lou Dennis no time to react.

Evenly poised for most of the match, the first meeting of the two fancied teams of the Southern section of the National League gave the 5,000 supporters very little to enthuse about.

Marred by some spiteful tackles, the game often resembled a wrestling bout, with players hitting the deck regularly.

Both coaches fielded young and inexperienced players with the view to looking at their relative strength for the coming NSL.

Len McKendry played John Kanesoulis and Con Bekiaris in place of Charlie Egan and Steve Wooddin, while Chris Kalafatis was called upon to deputise for Allan Davidson, who is still trialing with Arsenal.

Former Soccerro Jim Rooney also had to reshuffle his team to cover the gaps left by Paul Lewis, currently indisposed with the club and Bob Toal who is still on holidays.

South Melbourne created the better of the scoring opportunities but failed to hit the target until the 46 minute when Murphy connected with a perfect square ball by Oscar Crino.

John Yzendoorn, Crino, Murphy and Doug Brown were best for Souths, while Peter Boyle, Peter Lewis and Steve Short shone for Gully.

Footscray had to be content with one point from their mediocre performance against Croydon City.

Although Footscray started favourite they failed to capitalise on their superiority over their depleted opponents.

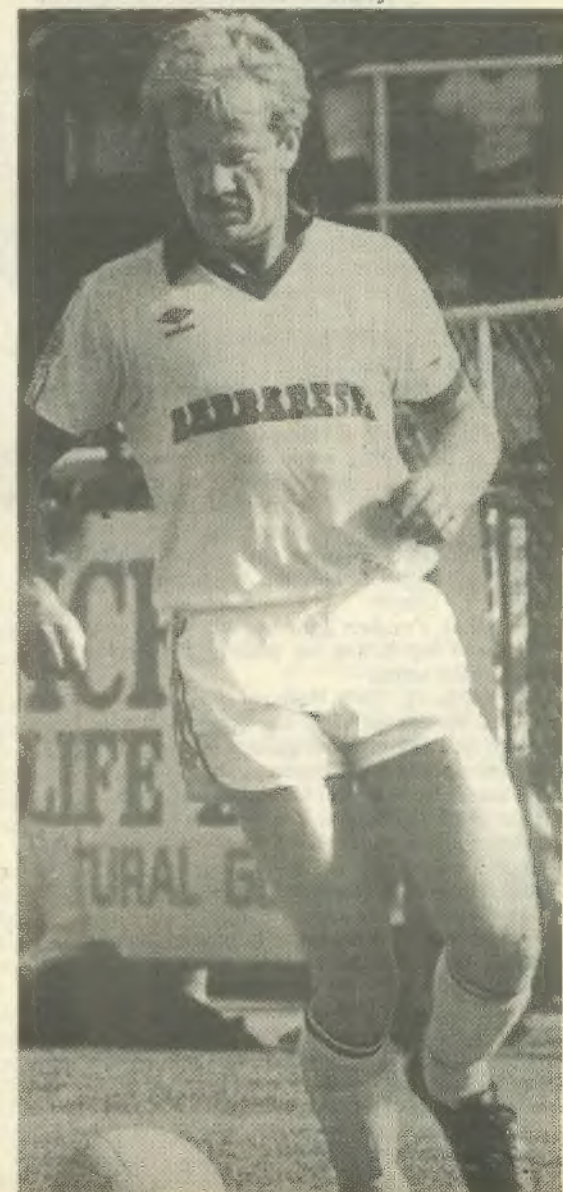
Lack of discipline was their main problem, manifested by their inability to string passes together and to defend properly under pressure.

Former Makedonia

Perth central defender Jim Davies made his debut with Footscray and showed a lot of potential.

To quote coach Bobby McLachlan: "Jim will play a key role in our defence once he has settled into the team."

Croydon City must find suitable replacements in a hurry



□ KENNY MURPHY

ENTHUSIASTIC BANKSTOWN

BY BRAD EARL

BANKSTOWN NATIONAL played with enthusiasm to defeat Ku-ring-gai 1-0 in the NSW Ampol Cup first round.

In an ordinary match, Ku-ring-gai were lethargic and couldn't take advantage of their oppo-

nents' inexperience. Bankstown National fielded two forwards, Hassan and El-Husseini,

who were obviously enjoying the step up to State League level, even if their inexperience showed.

It was a strong run by Hassan that led to the goal. Six minutes before half-time, he was grabbed and held down by Mortlock of Ku-ring-gai as he tried to reach the ball in the penalty area.

Midfielder Jim Meerbani put Bankstown National into the lead from the penalty spot.

The second half saw a more spirited effort from the more experienced Ku-ring-gai side, but there was some good defensive work from the Bankstown National defence.

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PENRITH 'BABES' ON SHOW IN CUP

BY BRAD EARL

THE FIRST appearance of Penrith City will be one of the highlights of this weekend's NSW Ampol Cup matches.

The Penrith side, still in the embryonic stages, will not be the full squad that will compete in the reorganised NSL this year.

It is likely that a number of inexperienced young players from the Penrith United Second Division team will be given a run against Auburn Uruguay in Sunday night's game at Melita Stadium.

Ian Hunter should be signed from Marconi this week, at a transfer fee of \$14,000.

That match will be followed by Parramatta Melita against St George. The Eagles, who have

been going through a rough trot with injuries to key players such as Bobby McGinn, Ray Farrugia, Alec Jamieson and now Billy Griffiths, will be hoping for revenge for their 2-5 loss to the Saints in the Super Challenge Cup.

The other double-header on Sunday night brings together Croatia and Yugal and Olympic and Bankstown National at St George Stadium.

Both NSL sides will no doubt rest some of their stars following the gruelling Super Challenge Cup series, yet they should still be far too strong for the two State League sides.

In the early game, Sydney City play Canterbury-Marrickville, who scored a 5-3 win last week with a very inexperienced side.

The Berries' skilful attackers may grab a goal or two, but their defence is unlikely to be able to hold out the Slickers.

Leichhardt will be favourites in the second game, against a Wollongong team expected to consist mainly of young players.

The experience of Butler, Bradley, Bertogna and Tredinnick should get

Leichhardt off to a winning start for 1984.

Another Friday night double-header will be played at Marconi Stadium.

In the early game, Blacktown City play neighbours Polonia — and two players the Demons have released in the past two years will be hoping to pull off an upset win for Polonia.

They are goalkeeper Andy Greenfield and forward Scott Lumaden. Greenfield was a reserve keeper at the Gabbie in 1982 and Lumaden played

in the State League with the Demons last season.

Those two played a big part in Polonia's upset first round Ampol Cup win.

The final match is Marconi against Sutherland.

Sutherland may be the State League side with the best chance of knocking off an NSL opponent. With experienced and skilful players like Vic Dal Forno, Nigel Groome and Mark Harrington, they might pose a threat to a Marconi side being remoulded by new coach Les Scheinflug.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

★★★★★★★★presents★★★★★★★★

NSW AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
6.45pm Sydney City v Canterbury-Marrickville
8.25pm Wollongong City v Leichhardt

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 — MARCONI STADIUM
6.45pm Blacktown City v Polonia
8.25pm Marconi v Sutherland

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
6.45pm Croatia Sydney v Yugal
8.25pm Sydney Olympic v Bankstown National

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 — MELITA STADIUM
6.45pm Penrith City v Auburn
8.25pm Parramatta Melita v St George BSC

NEXT WEEK:

QUARTER-FINALS:

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10:
Wollongong or Leichhardt v Sydney City or Cant-M'ville
Blacktown City or Polonia v Marconi or Sutherland

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12:
Sydney Croatia or Yugal v Sydney Olympic or B'town National
Penrith City or Auburn v Parramatta Melita or St George

□ NIGEL GROOME: threat



□ JOHN BRADLEY: experience



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CHIT HAT



MELBOURNE Croatia striker Tommy Cumming has begun a battle to lose half a stone for the start of the season.

Coach Terry Hennessey believes this will improve his game by 50 per cent.

■■■■

GOALKEEPER Ron Tilsed will be vying with Natch Vardareff for the first grade spot with Wollongong city this season.

Tilsed is a friend of Wolves' coach Adrian Alston and has come out of retirement a lot trimmer than when Alston first talked to him about going to Wollongong.

An England youth international and also on the books of Arsenal, he had experience in the NSL with Canberra five years ago.

He had the benefit of five weeks intensive training with English third division club Bournemouth before joining the Wollongong club.

During his spell with the club they beat Manchester United 2-0 in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

"The atmosphere in the club that day was out of this world and it was great to be there and share it with the players," he said.

ROBBIE SLATER will be a different player — and a better player following his three months with Nottingham Forest in England.

That's what his coach at St George, Frank Arok, thinks.

As Arok told ASW, "Robbie has been playing with and against some of the so-called superstars in Britain and discovered they are only human after all."

■■■■

FORMER Canberra Arrows goalkeeper, Steve Hoszowski, transfer listed for \$6,000, has no wish to leave Canberra where he has a secure position as a physical education teacher at one of the national capital's leading private colleges.

But his retirement, enforced or otherwise, will not stop Steve from lending his considerable wealth of experience to the code.

Hoszowski has undertaken to assume responsibility for the training of Inter-Monaro's goalkeepers in the coming season. There is little doubt that at a reduced transfer fee, Inter-Monaro would welcome Hoszowski's skills as a player.



□ TOMMY CUMMING on the ball

THERE were mixed reactions in the Lions dressing-room when the players were told coach Simon Kistemaker was not returning from Holland.

Some of the more experienced players were a little subdued, knowing the hassles ahead of a new coach settling in, but one youngster certainly made his feelings clear.

"Great, let's chop the wood for the celebration barbie," he announced.

MALCOLM McCLELLAND, one of Newcastle KB United's most promising players a few seasons ago, is now back in training with the club.

McClelland played in a midfield role for Maitland in the Northern NSW competition last year, but is keen to make his mark in NSL company again.

The fiery redhead is another player from that prolific Soccer nursery Booragul High School, which has bred such stars as the Tredinnick brothers Peter and Howard, Craig Johnston and Michael Boogaard, now a formidable force in KB's back-line.

McClelland was a member of the Australian Youth squad under Rudi Gutendorf prior to the trip to Paraguay some seasons ago, before his Soccer career took a nose-dive.

A dispute with Newcastle saw him sidelined for a period, but if he can regain the grit and determination which made him so vital in the KB line-up, he could cement a regular spot for himself.

■■■■

JIMMY WRIGHT, Adelaide City's Scottish winger who played for St Johnstone but was sent back to the UK last year when his visa ran out, could be returning to Australia.

But he won't be playing for City, or West Adelaide who sold him to their rivals.

Salisbury United, promoted to the State League First Division, are keen to get the tricky winger.

TWO of Tasmania's most promising youngsters will definitely be playing on the mainland in 1984 while several others will be trialing there in the hope of the making the big time.

Carlo Ambrosino (Juventus-Pioneer), cousin of Canberra Arrows' Angelo Ambrosino, has been accepted by the Australian Institute of Sport. Carlo will be following in the footsteps of Angelo, who also played for the Institute before signing for Arrows, and of another former Juventus player, Luciano Fabrizio, who joined Brisbane City from the Institute and the Young Socceroos.

White Eagles' 19-year-old striking sensation, Andrew Leszczynski, has moved to Brisbane to join Lions.

Three players who will try to impress mainland sides in the next few weeks are Croatia-Glenorchy's Ibro Cahut and Olympia's Craig Nichols and Robert Harrison.

Cahut will try out at Canberra Arrows while Nichols and Harrison, the former a midfielder-cum-striker, the latter a goalkeeper, will be parading their talents in Melbourne, possibly with Footscray.

■■■■

CALLING all past and present players of Blacktown City (formerly Toongabbie).

There is a reunion night planned for Saturday February 18 at the Demons' social club at Seven Hills.

Tickets for the buffet dinner and cabaret are only \$20 a head. Book at the club (phone 624 3344).

NEW Wollongong Wolves boss Adrian Alston warns his team will be made up largely of inexperienced youngsters in its Ampol Cup debut appearance at St George on Friday.

There have been so many problems over resigning the top Wolves players that Alston really has no alternative.

"One player who could have a bright future is local midfielder Alex Bundalo," says Alston.

When we asked Alston which club Phil O'Connor would sign for, he said: "Wollongong I hope!"

■■■■

PARRAMATTA MELITA were always rated one of the wealthy clubs in the NSW State League but they admit they are worried about the high transfer fees being asked for players of National League standard.

Coach Raul Blanco is worried about a long injury list which has handicapped his team in the Super Challenge Series. He admits he is just as worried about the cash Melita need to buy new men.

"We are not rich," says Blanco.

■■■■

HECTOR MARTINEZ, the Argentinian forward who played for Auburn and Melita in the NSW State League, is looking for a club.

Martinez, who is transfer-listed by Melita, can be contacted on (02) 558 0698.

QUEENSLAND Soccer Federation president Ian Brusasco is \$50,000 richer thanks to a win in Queensland's Golden Casket.

Brusasco, 55, won second prize in a half-million dollar Casket drawn late last month.

He was given the ticket as a Christmas present.

Brusasco announced his windfall to the Soccer public at the end of last week's crucial restructuring meeting.

After the clubs had voted to accept a compromise deal, Brusasco announced: "Gentlemen, you now have two choices. We can suspend standing orders and hold a discussion on the matter, or, seeing I was informed this afternoon that I have won \$50,000 in the Casket, I can buy you all a drink."

The delegates wasted no time in retiring to the bar.

The win capped an amazing run of luck for Queensland's Soccer boss.

On each of the previous two Saturdays he had collected racing trifectas of more than \$1,000 and had even won \$5 at his first attempt at instant lotto in Melbourne the previous week.

Brusasco, whose political career and wide business interests have given him and his family a comfortable existence, said the win would not change his life much.

"I think the kids will benefit most out of this," he said.

Brusasco and his wife Pasty have three children. Eldest son Mark is a former Brisbane City NSL player.

■■■■



□ FRANK PIMBLETT

FORMER Queensland and Brisbane City captain Frank Pimblett is back at training at Spencer Park.

Pimblett, the lynchpin of City's midfield since the start of the NSL, was sacked by last year's coach Jim Hermiston late last season when his form dropped dramatically.

Pimblett and teammates Billy Williamson and Bobby Hamilton were told by Hermiston they were not required at training anymore.

The decision shocked Pimblett, and the former Aston Villa apprentice virtually went into hiding.

He missed the first few weeks of City's pre-season training this year, with club officials giving the official reason as: "Frank has told us he is not yet mentally ready to come back to Soccer."

But the talented midfielder appears to have overcome those problems and is set to figure prominently in new coach Joe Gilroy's plans.



□ STEVE HOSZOWSKI saves for Canberra Arrows



□ SYDNEY CROATIA'S three key signings for the 1984 NSL season line up at St George Stadium — Shane Clinch (left), Steve Meades and Paul Kirwan.

Clinch and Meades were signed from Sutherland, while Kirwan joins Croatia from Blacktown City. All three have only played State League football in Australia, so it will be a big test for them in NSL this year.

Kirwan, who came from Ireland two years ago, and Meades are in their mid-20s, while Clinch has been a star Under 21 player in the NSW State League for the past two seasons.

KB COACH Ken Kaiser is disappointed at the recall of spritely winger Grant Lee by Sydney City.

Lee was on loan on the Newcastle club last season and gained admirers for his swift incisive running, somewhat spoiled by his indiscriminate finishing.

FORMER Albion Rovers coach and South Melbourne player Frank Munro has taken over as coach of Victorian third division side Hamlyn Rangers.

Munro was a player at the club last season and was this year offered the job as player-coach.

THE Prime Minister's Cup will be up for grabs between Canberra Arrows and Newcastle KB on February 26. Locals are speculating whether Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, will add this sporting event to the already impressive list totted up since he assumed office.

THREE West Adelaide youngsters have turned down a chance to join the Youth Socceroos at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Midfielder John Panagis, and strikers Steve Papadopoulos and Nick Malavasos have said "no" to coach Jimmy Shoulder, and will take their chances with the West NSL squad.

Panagis was starring for West last year until he injured his hip and was out for the second half of the competition.

CANBERRA ARROWS are keen to sign Tommy Sermanni from Marconi, but they can forget about any cut-price deal.

Arrows offered Marconi \$8,000 for the player. Marconi coach Les Scheinflug turned down the offer and commented: "You can't buy anything worthwhile for \$8,000 these days in Soccer."

STEVE WATSON, one of Australia's best goalkeepers, has had a run of bad luck during the past few months.

In the past two years in the NSW State League competition, Watson has conceded only 21 goals in 50 games.

Late last year he was selected in the Socceroo squad for the Merlion Cup tournament. He withdrew at the last minute with a back injury.

In his first game of the season in the Super Challenge Cup he was carried off the field after only two minutes after suffering a deep gash to his thigh.

This injury has forced Watson off the field for the next four weeks.

JOE MULLEN, former Youth Socceroo striker, and Adelaide City's top scorer in the NSL last year, finally signed a new contract — but he first turned down a tempting offer.

Salisbury, promoted from the State League Second Division, told Mullen he could have a \$7,000 signing on fee, free lease of a car and "hand-some" match payments.

But Mullen, while not getting anywhere near the same from City, decided his future lay in the NSL.

PENRITH City are faced with a goalkeeping dilemma over the next few weeks. Only one prominent goalkeeper has been signed up by the club during the off-season.

Mike Gibson, a local prospect from Penrith United, City's back-up team for the inaugural season in the NSL.

In previous weeks ex-Riverwood keeper Ron Gisbourne and Polonia's Ian Barker had been training with the club, but negotiations to sign these two didn't bear fruit.

WHILE most clubs are busily signing players for the new season, Newcastle KB United officials have been forced to stay their hand for a few more days.

Agreement on some financial details, not involving the players, has to be reached before the task of signing last year's crop of enthusiastic players can be undertaken.

Last season's successful side took part in a memorable tour of USA to take part in a spectacular five-a-side tourney in San Diego.

Though outclassed by the much more experienced American sides, who specialise in this type of indoor Soccer, the trip proved a wonderful team spirit binder for coach Ken Kaiser and his charges.

Additional matches were played in Alaska, the players experiencing a drastic variation in temperatures from 35 degrees in California to 40 degrees at Anchorage in Alaska.

The comradeship built up during this off-season tour could play a vital part when determined efforts are made to hold the team together, on a reduced payment system, for the 1984 season.

THE PENRITH Leagues Club has decided to go guarantor for \$25,000 needed by Penrith City Soccer Club.

The Rugby League club are also backing the Penrith Rugby Union Club.

Penrith City were expected to use Penrith Park, the home of the Rugby League Panthers, but they will now be playing home games at the new-look Cook Park.

ANDREW KOZCKA, who was drafted into the St George team at the end of the 1982 season, is back in the Saints line-up.

The tall, young striker missed last season when he took a year off from football to concentrate on his studies.

SYDNEY CITY goalkeeper Tony Pezzano has proved to be no slouch at playing grade cricket during the off-season.

Representing Earlwood in the Canterbury District 'C' grade competition on Saturday afternoons, Tony has amassed plenty of runs opening the batting for his side.

Last year he won the batting averages with two centuries being a feature.



□ TONY PEZZANO: centuries

WOLLONGONG CITY again face a crisis over training facilities.

They started training on January 10 at the former Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel but there are no lights at the ground: coach Adrian Alston is being optimistic.

"We are investigating the possibilities of getting a few lights up at the hostel," he said.

"It is unfortunate that the top Soccer team in this area is scratching for somewhere to train but I believe this has been a problem since they were formed in 1981."

The side trained at Balgownie last season but directors are keen to get their own training ground to save the expense of renting a ground and lights from a district club.

THE emphasis is on local youth for the Canberra Arrows youth team this year.

Coach Vic Fernandez, together with NSL coach Doug Collins, is anxious for all local youngsters with aspirations to join the squad to take the first step along that path now.

Under 19s who would like the opportunity are asked to ring the Arrows club on 480708 to leave their names for Fernandez.

First major outing for the youth team will be on Saturday, February 18, when the boys will travel to Albury in a major promotion for club sponsor, Lotto of New South Wales.

The match will be against an Albury select team.

CANBERRA'S Bruce Stadium, now known as the National Sports Centre, is to host the 1985 Athletics World Cup, one of the most significant athletics events to be staged in Australia.

Considerable improvements to the Centre are planned which will be of benefit to the most regular user of the main stadium — Canberra Arrows.

But the NSL team is homeless at the moment. The Bruce training pitch, shared by the Arrows and the Australian Institute of Sport squad — and described by many visiting teams as having a better surface than their main pitches — is out of action as a practice track for athletes is being laid.



□ GRANT LEE: incisive



PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

DAVID SKEEN

BY BRAD EARL

THE BIG success story of the last two years in Australia has been St George's return to the top.

And in that team one of the big successes has been David Skeen.

"He was one of our most consistent players last season," commented his coach Frank Arok.

"He was a kid three years ago. Now he is a man in every meaning of the word.

"His reserves of energy are extraordinary, and his knowledge of the game is vastly improved. He's a human dynamo, but now he is also a man who thinks, and can change the whole pattern of a game."

David Skeen, the stocky, skilful, right-back, is totally dedicated to his football and to his club.

Six years ago, former St George, New South Wales and Australia coach Joe Vlasits placed the youngster with the Saints, having coached him in NSW junior rep sides.

Skeen settled in at St George, but had to serve an "apprenticeship" of four years before becoming a regular first-teamer.

And for those six years, he has travelled back and forth from his home at Berkeley, south of Wollongong.

He first broke into the Saints line-up during the disastrous 1980 season. The following year, the club were in the NSW State League, yet Skeen didn't get his chance until the end of the season.

"I played in the last half-a-dozen games in the State League," David said. "Dennis Duarte, who was right-back, had a bad

injury and I was lucky enough to get into the team, playing well enough to cement my position."

Skeen played in the Saints' Grand Final victory over Croatia at the Sports Ground in 1981.

Just a couple of weeks later, at the same ground, he experienced the most enjoyable and most disappointing moments of his Soccer career.

The occasion was the World Youth Championship finals.

his country in the four games played.

Earlier in the year, he was playing in the team in trial games, and played as sweeper in the Youth tournament in Israel.

"I was virtually in the team, but couldn't get time off work for the tour to Indonesia and Taiwan."

That was the tour on which the Youth team played full internationals in Australia's final two World Cup games. In the final match, against Taiwan, Oscar Crino



DAVID SKEEN on the ball for the Australian Youth team in Israel in 1981

SKEEN PREPARED TO BE PATIENT

Australia's first match was against Argentina, and, in the compact Sports Ground, the atmosphere was electric as the home side came from behind to record that historic, last-gasp 2-1 victory.

"My biggest thrill was being with the team when we beat Argentina, who were world champions. There was a capacity crowd, and although it shouldn't be encouraged, the people coming on to the pitch and the emotions that flowed — what a great feeling."

Yet the series also brought disappointment for Skeen in that he never made an appearance for

turned in a star performance as sweeper, and clinched that position for the WYC finals.

"It was on that tour that Les Scheinflug settled on his team," Skeen continued. "That's the biggest disappointment of my career so far."

Skeen worked as an apprentice mechanical engineer with BHP in Wollongong.

Three weeks ago he came out of his indentures, and was put off.

"They said they had no jobs to offer. It was a case of 'thanks for your services, but...'"

Now David is looking for a job, and is considering a move to Sydney.

He has no wish to try his luck in football overseas like many young Australian players.

"If I was going to do that I should have done it a couple of years ago. I don't think I'd like being a full-time professional Soccer player."

"I enjoy the different lifestyle at work," Skeen said.

His ambitions in Soccer are to play as long as he can and to be a regular in the national team.

Skeen realises that he may have a long wait, but, with the persistence which has characterised his playing career so far, he will give it his best shot.

"There are a lot of good full-backs around, so it is not an easy task."

"I think in two years I will reach my peak," said

Skeen, who turned 22 on January 13.

As a junior, David played as either sweeper or stopper, and as right-back for the first time with St George.

"Frank Lang (St George assistant coach) put me there, and it turned out to be my best move. Right-back is now my favourite position, and I have a lot more confidence playing there."

Skeen pays tribute to two people for his progress: 'Uncle' Joe Vlasits, who guided his career as a teenager, and his current boss Frank Arok.

Arok is responsible for the ever-improving attacking ability of the full-back.

"When Frank took over, he emphasised the need for full-backs to get forward and create an extra

man in attack. Last season I scored two goals — the first time I'd scored for St George!"

Skeen enjoys having the freedom to attack, and does it with the same aggression which has proved so effective when his team defends.

Arok says that makes him a very important weapon in the team.

The St George manager-coach says Skeen is just the player he needs

for his team. "I wouldn't change him for any full-back in Australia," Arok stated.

Arok said that statement doesn't mean he is the best right-back around for national selection, but that Skeen is the best player available for St George's style of play.

Arok and Saints fans will be hoping for another top season from the star defender this year.



'For my team I wouldn't change him for any full-back in Australia'

Arok

ARROWS TO MELBOURNE

BY BERNIE HARRIS

CANBERRA Arrows defender Angelo Ambrosino may soon be off to Melbourne.

Heidelberg United, after an initial inquiry about Ambrosino, have shown renewed interest in the midfielder-defender who has a transfer fee of \$5,000 on his head.

New South Wales State League team, Inter-Monaro, also has been discussing Ambrosino with Arrows coach Doug Collins, but the transfer fee is understood to be the stumbling block.

Ambrosino joined the Arrows in 1982 following

a year at the Australian Institute of Sport. He turned 22 on New Year's Day.

Last year, he returned to his birthplace, Italy, and played several matches for the Fiorentina club.

On his return to Canberra, he was included in the Arrows squad and played a number of outstanding games, although Canberra's last match against Sydney City saw

the lad have a disastrous game in defence as the Slickers powered to a 5-2 victory.

Ambrosino spent five years with Juventus Pioneer in Hobart and gained representative honours in the senior State team.

Heidelberg also has expressed interest in New Zealand international midfielder Duncan Cole, who returned to the ACT last week to learn, as

ASW reported, that his contract had been terminated. The asking fee for Cole is \$15,000.

If either player goes, he will be following in the path of several other Arrows players who have made the move south in the last couple of seasons.

Don MacLaren joined Sunshine-George Cross earlier this year and Isaac Farrell, Richard Wilson and Ian Purdie transferred to the southern capital in earlier years.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED IN THE OLD COUNTRY—AND SOCCER SUFFERS

SAYS ASW's GARY CUTLER, just back from a trip to England.

LOOK OUT rest of the world, Australia is on the way up in Soccer!

Gone are the days when average club sides would come out from the UK at the end of a hard season to play against the so-called amateurs in Australia's national team.

Having spent most of the close season in the UK and watched First Division sides play, I can assure you the gap between UK and Australian Soccer is much closer than people believe.

This is partly due to the improvement of the game here, but the major

away to such a stage that there are now serious questions about how long it can stand the financial strain?

The people who pay to watch the games will give you a straight answer: matches are no longer entertaining enough to justify the prices being asked of spectators.

Very few players have been allowed to develop the skills they had as youngsters and are now encouraged to play to a system.

So it is now up to the coaches to develop the skills of the younger players who are taking an interest in the game.

Too much emphasis is put on running today instead of the basic skills of "control and pass." After all, anyone can run.

Committees at the clubs can help by appointing top coaches who have proved themselves in the coaching world as opposed to some of the imposters who are now stealing money from clubs without having the knowledge of the game.

Visa players have now been almost stopped due to tightening up by the Immigration Department, but there are still openings for clubs to bring coaches in to do a job.

I firmly believe that if the clubs begin to adopt this approach, the standard of Soccer in this country could improve by 100 percent within the next three years.

The Heidelberg club has been the target of criticism during the close season, with most of its top players asking to be placed on the transfer list.

But to the credit of the club they have gone ahead with their original plan to appoint a top coach.

Last week Brian Garvey arrived from England. Garvey arrives with credentials that many of the coaches in Australia would only dream about.

Having had spells at Wolves for seven years and then a season at Arsenal before coming to Australia, he has been in charge of such names as Andy Gray, Graham Rix, Pat Jennings and Brian Talbot, all of whom have had international experience at the highest level.

Also in his list of credits is the fact that he has been a member of the England Youth team coaching set-up for a number of years. Surely with all the experience he has behind him he can do only good for the players at the club and for Soccer in general.

It is up to the players to realise that they now have a coach who can teach them things that have been missing from their game and can mould the team into a winning combination.

The players who want to learn will soon show the improvement we all want to see, but the players who think that they are good may soon find they are slipping behind.

It may well be that they are not as valuable as they think.

Along with Garvey, Melbourne has also acquired the coaching skills of Terry Hennessey from last year's Soccer Bowl winners in North America, Tulsa Roughnecks.

Hennessey, a straight-talking man, has quickly taken to the task of building Croatia into a top

NSL club, and what is just as important, the players and committee have taken to him.

Although he is not altogether happy with all the players, he admits there is a sound foundation to build upon.

Hennessey told me: "If I can get together another three or four good players, we will be a force, although at the moment we

are still working on the way we are approaching the game.

"I am enjoying the challenge and look forward to the start of the season," said the former Welsh international.

So perhaps now that these two progressive clubs have shown their initiative and gone into the overseas market, other clubs will realise that if

they are to succeed then they must have good coaches, and good coaches are hard to come by in Australia.

Hennessey and Garvey have got a lot on their shoulders but if they succeed, as I feel sure they will, we may soon see top coaches producing better players and better Soccer in Australia.



□ PAT JENNINGS



□ GRAHAM RIX

reason for the closing of the gap is the fact that Soccer in the UK is going downhill. And fast.

Crowds have dwindled to the stage where a world-famous club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, which boasted such names as Billy Wright, Jimmy Mullen, Bert Williams and Derek Dougan in the past, now plays in front of 9,000 people.

The gap between the top teams and the lower teams in the First Division is growing wider and wider all the time and the lower clubs are having difficulty in meeting the high costs of running a club.

Where a few years ago you could walk into nearly any club in the country and see between 30 and 40 players training, you now see only about 20.

What has caused a game which was once almost a religion to fall

This may win games but it is bad to watch.

The players themselves must take a large portion of the blame as they have bled the clubs dry by asking for, and getting, wages the clubs could not afford.

This should have been stopped many years ago but it was allowed to get out of hand and the inevitable consequences are beginning to bite.

Transfer fees went out of all proportion for a couple of years, but we now see Andy Gray — who was bought by Wolves for over \$2,000,000 — sold for a mere \$500,000.

So what can be done to prevent the same thing happening in Australia?

There can be no question that at the moment our players are not as skilful on the whole as English League players.



□ FLASHBACK: DEREK DOUGAN playing for Wolves before a packed crowd

McMILLAN PREFERS A.I.S.

BY TOM McKAIN

WATCH for a striker called Graham McMillan.

He'll be moving into the Youth Soccerroo squad at the Australian Institute of Sport via Glasgow Rangers.

Formerly with Azzurri in SA's State League First

Division, but getting only occasional runs with the first team, McMillan went to Scotland last year.

He could have joined Aberdeen, his father's old club — George McMillan was a winger there — but instead opted for Motherwell, then managed by Jock Wallace.

Already in the SA State Youth squad, McMillan was offered a place at the Australian Institute of Sport.

He accepted, turning his back on a career in the Scottish Premier League.

But when Wallace switched to become Rangers' manager, and Graham and his father visited former SA star David Mitchell at Rangers' Ibrox Park, Wallace asked McMillan to train with his senior squad.

He has now invited the striker to stay on at Ibrox until he is due to attend the Institute, and when his stint is over with the Youth Soccerroos there will be a place for him with the Rangers.

McMillan will be joined at the Institute by two other South Australians, Beograd's Sean Greaves and West Adelaide's Lou Hristodoulou.



AROUND NEW SOUTH WALES

BANKSTOWN AIM TO SURPRISE

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

FOR SO long Bankstown have been the cellar-dwellers of the NSW State League, but this looks like changing following the merger with the Arabian-supported National Sports club.

This move was taken to boost the strength of the first grade side, increase the crowd support, as the local area is heavily populated with Arabs, and reach a much higher position in this year's competition.

From last year's first grade squad only eight players remain at the club: goalkeepers Steve Giffin and David Lohman, defenders Roy Agostino, Steve Blackburn and Warren Kennedy and midfielders Wayne Parker, Phil Dolton and Alan Sirett.

The major significant gain, aside from some skilful players from National Sports, is Wayne Cootes, ex-Croatia, Riverwood and Revesby Workers.

The club now has a mixture of experience with

the average age of the first grade squad 23. This year they won't rely heavily on youth as they had done in previous years.

New coach Tony Anastasi, an assistant to Tommy Docherty at Sydney Olympic last year, has blended the side into a skilful and compact unit. In pre-season trial games the team has surprised their opposition.

Last season's captain-coach Alan Bourke, defenders Alan Beck and Greg King and strikers Wayne Brown and Brett Gilligan have not trained with the club during the off-season.

Indications are that all these players, bar Gilligan, could be playing for other clubs in the State League.

Three players who Bankstown-National will

be heavily relying on for forward strength are Jim Meerbani, Peter Hassan and Hassan El-Husseini. These three will prove to be crowd-pleasers with their dazzling skills and deft passing.

Bankstown-National have it all in front of them.



□ ROY AGOSTINO



□ PETER VALE: Manly striker sidelined through injury



□ PETER FREEMAN saves from Mark Jankovics in a 1980 PSL match

CHASERS ARE BLESSED WITH YOUNG TALENT

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

NSW STATE League side Ku-ring-gai are aiming to avenge last year's disappointment of missing out on the semi-final play-offs by winning the competition and gaining admission to the NSL in 1985.

The club has been riding on the crest of a wave during the last three years.

In 1981 they missed promotion to the top division by a point after losing to Yugal in the last game. The following season they won the Second Division competition and won promotion for the 1983 season.

Last year they remained in the top half of the competition throughout the season and just missed out on a place in the top four.

This year the club has been on the lookout for an experienced defender, midfielder and striker to add stability to their current first grade squad.

At this stage, they have signed two promising 20-

year-old forwards, Glen Jeffreys and Craig Bass, and are hoping to sign fellow team-mate Alan Goldsworthy. All three played for Gladesville Ravens in Second Division.

Outstanding young goalkeeper David Curtis looks like signing with Blacktown City in exchange for their keeper Peter Freeman and experienced defender Warren Turnbull.

Training

Two experienced players have been training with the club during the last few weeks — Alan Bourke, ex-Bankstown captain-coach, and Howard Hadley, who coached St George's NSL Youth

League team last year. Attempts are also being made at signing Croatia's Mark Holloway.

This year there will be three notable absences from the first grade line-up. Andrew Brockbank has signed with Canberra Arrows, Stuart Regan has returned to England and Steve Leak looks like signing for Manly.

Experience blended with youth will be the winning formula coach Harry Noon will be looking for.

"Things aren't looking too bad at this stage of the year. Experienced players like Terry Bertram, Mike Berry, Clive Eaton and Alan Robertson will be playing this year.

"The up-and-coming

youngsters in the club will be definitely knocking on the door of first grade selection," Noon said.

Along with regular first grade players Trevor Jesse and Stephen Knight, other youngsters striving for a spot in the first grade line-up are Graham Williams (midfield), Dave Martin (sweeper), Graham Mortlock (stopper), Peter Seach and Neil Hunter (strikers).

If coach Harry Noon blends together the youth, experience and skill at Ku-ring-gai, 1984 could be the year the Chasers stamp themselves on the Soccer map by winning the competition and gaining admission into the NSL.

THE SEASIDERS ARE HOPEFUL

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

DESPITE their rejection to this year's NSL competition, Manly are one of 12 clubs striving to win this year's competition and gain selection into the 1985 NSL competition.

Manly are one club that has been taking positive steps in ensuring that their juniors play in the highest possible grade of competition.

The facilities at Cromer Park were used for the 1983 Australian U15 Championships. The licensed club next to the ground is due to open before the season kicks off.

During the off-season the club appointed

Richard Alagich as technical director and he has been conditioning the squad during the off-season. It seems Jim Hughes will not coach this year.

Three regular faces in the first grade line-up last year will not be playing in the pre-season Ampol Cup. Tom Steven and Keith and Peter Falconer are all overseas.

On a positive note, the

defence will be reinforced with the return of John Dick and Bruce Doyle (back from overseas).

With the retirement of Terry Smith, the club has been trying to reinforce their forward strength and at this time two prominent strikers from the NSL have been training with the club.

Promotions and publicity manager of Manly, John Loughran, is confi-



□ JIM HUGHES

dent of the club's chances this year.

"We've been building our squad up during the off-season. We are confident of winning the State League and playing in the NSL in 1985," Loughran said.

Within the club's ranks are four up-and-coming representative juniors — Ross Ethrington, Wayne Pierce, Nick Conradi and Paul Juergens.

The first three, all 16, have represented NSW for the past two years and 17-year-old Paul represented NSW in the Australian schoolboys championships last year.

AROUND THE A.C.T.

WITH JOHNNY WARREN



□ TERRY BYRNE

BYRNE AND STARK ARE ARROWS VIPS

CANBERRA Arrows will honour two of its outstanding players, Terry Byrne and Roy Stark, at its first VIP dinner in February.

Both Byrne and Stark will become life members of the VIP Club as well as receiving special complimentary seats at all of Arrows' home matches.

Both have captained Canberra, Stark in the earlier years and Byrne in more recent times.

Stark's promising career was put to an end several seasons ago with an incurable knee injury, whilst Byrne is currently recovering from a cruciate ligament opera-

tion and is likely to be sidelined for all of 1984.

Stark joined Canberra in its first NSL season back in 1977 and proved himself one of the most capable defenders and leading clubmen in Australia.

Byrne joined Canberra at the start of the 1978 season and made his mark as a striker.

Since those days he has moved back to the defence where he still scored many valuable goals

The Arrows' decision to honour Stark and Byrne is sure to be met favourably by the Canberra community — in particular those loyal Soccer fans who have followed Canberra since its inception in 1977.

It's a pity both are sidelined with injury — Byrne temporarily and Stark permanently — for with both on deck the Arrows would be able to boast the best central defence in Australia.

SPONSORS TO BE ANNOUNCED

CANBERRA Arrows intend to announce 1984 sponsorship deals at a prestigious cocktail party at the National Press Club in February.

Apart from the sponsors involved, Arrows officials, players and staff,

the national Soccer media along with local media will be invited to attend.

John Brown, the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Recreation has been invit-

ed to announce Canberra Arrows' sponsorship for 1984.

FEDERAL MINISTER ACCEPTS INVITATION

The Federal Minister for Sport and Tourism, John Brown, will be the special guest for the Canberra Arrows first home match of the season against Wollongong on March 3.

A self confessed sports nut the Minister was delighted to accept the Arrows invitation although he did confess that he is

diehard Parramatta rugby league supporter from way back.

The Minister met representatives of the Ar-

rows at Parliament House recently and showed a more than average knowledge of Australian Soccer and its problems.

Apart from attending the Arrows first game he also promised to be a guest speaker at the Arrows VIP club.

YOUTH STARS TO SHINE

AUSTRALIAN World Youth team stars and new signings for the Canberra Arrows, Tony Franken and Roy Jones, return from their native Perth to commence training this week.

Big things are expected from the Western Australian duo this year after their splendid performances for the young Socceroos.

MONEY FROM YOUTH CUP

ALTHOUGH some nations still regard the World Youth Championship (FIFA Coca-Cola Cup) as an unimportant competition, there is little doubt that it is here to stay.

The Finals have been held in Tunisia, Japan, Australia and Mexico and have been particularly well supported by the paying spectators.

In Mexico, where Australia performed well, the Cup was watched by 1,200,000 people. This was a match average of 37,500, a great figure for youth football.

Be sure the Mexican appetite for Soccer — revealed by those crowds at the Coca-Cola Cup — caused FIFA to allocate the 1986 senior World Cup to Mexico.

■■■

TRUST the Yanks to come up with something a bit different.

The United States Soccer Federation put a motion to FIFA's Executive Committee that goalkeepers should wear crash helmets.

FIFA turned down the suggestion.

BRYANT STAYS

MANY ardent Canberra fans were delighted when Steve Bryant re-signed with the Arrows after speculation that he may leave the club.

Bryant, who for many was the Arrows best player in 1983, was amongst the club's leading scorers from his midfield and defensive position, scoring many spectacular goals from dead-ball movements.

A deciding factor in Bryant staying in Canberra was his excellent position as a sales representative with Bega Dairy Products.

JOINT PROMOTIONS WITH BASKETBALL

CANBERRA Arrows intends to link with the Canberra Cannons, national basketball champions, in staging its early season matches in 1984.

The Cannons play many of their early season matches on a Saturday evening at the National Indoor Stadium, which is a stone's throw from the Arrows' Bruce Stadium.

The Arrows intend

playing their earlier season matches also on a Saturday evening kicking off around 6.30pm.

With the basketball team starting at 8.30pm the idea is to attract Canberra sports fans to both events — Soccer from

5pm with the main game at 6.30pm and the basketball at 8.30pm.

The first such promotion will take place in the very first round of the NSL when the Arrows are at home to Wollongong Wolves.



□ FLASHBACK: ROY JONES (left) is congratulated on his selection for the 1983 Australian Youth team by Mr Rob Holle, representing the 1983 sponsor of the Australian Institute of Sport.



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SOS FOR 'KAT'

SYDNEY Olympic will need to bring Peter Katholos back into their line-up if they are to win the Super Challenge Cup.

Katholos, who was left out of the team for this third round game against St George after having settled his negotiations with the club earlier in the week, is needed to give added firepower to Olympic.

This match virtually became a dress-rehearsal for the final after Croatia's 1-0 over Melita, which left Olympic having to win by five goals to put St George out of the final.

As expected, that wasn't to be, and the match finished 0-0.

St George were more controlled than Olympic in their build-ups, with Peter Stone and John O'Shea turning in good midfield performances.

The scoreline wasn't a true reflection of the match, as both sides had several opportunities to score.

However, poor finishing was the order of the day. Mark Barton, Dez Marton and Rob Slater all had good chances to put Saints ahead in the first half.

Jimmy Patikas made some strong runs from midfield, with a good scoring chance on a breakaway run in the first half, but he shot wide.

It was Olympic who made the better chances in the second half, but strikers Marshall Soper, Mark Koussas and Terry Patahs all failed with scoring opportunities inside the St George goal area.

Soper came on at half time for Olympic, and put in his usual aggressive performance. He "scored" in the 76th minute, only to turn around to see the linesman's flag raised for offside.

The fact that Olympic didn't concede a goal can be attributed to some good

keeping by Peter Wilson, who on this performance should hold his place for tomorrow night's final.

His positioning was very good, and he pulled off a fine save at the feet of Slater six minutes before half-time.



□ PETER KATHOLOS: needed

SUPER CHALLENGE CUP

Sydney Olympic
St George
Sydney Croatia
Parra Melita

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2	1	0	5	2	5
1	2	0	5	2	4
1	1	1	2	3	3
0	0	3	3	8	0

OLYMPIC HIT TOP FORM

BY DAVID JACK

WILL 1984 be the year of Sydney Olympic — or will these potential giants of Australian Soccer again disappoint their enthusiastic supporters, as so often in the past?

That is the question a lot of people were asking when they watched the Greek-supported team take on Croatia at St George Stadium in the Super Challenge tournament.

First impressions may be misleading... they often are with Olympic... but on the evidence of their solid 3-1 victory, Manfred Schaefer's men should be among the pace-setters of 1984.

There was a reassuring sense of urgency and punch about those capable midfielders Jim Patikas and Peter Raskopoulos which even caused one official to comment when it was all over: "Who needs Peter Katholos?"

(Katholos, of course, was missing because of a contract dispute with the club.)

As a great admirer of Katholos, I do not believe his absence from any match can be treated as inconsequential. No team is sufficiently blessed with outstanding talent that it can get by without its genuine stars.

Yet for all that, Sydney Olympic did everything required of them against the newly-promoted Croatia.

Six minutes before half-time, the always-busy Gary Philips gave Olympic the lead the second half was only two minutes old when controversial Marshall Soper made it 2-0 from close in.

Seven minutes later, Croatia produced the best inter-passing move of the match, ending in a goal for Bobby Pagano to make it 2-1.

It was only a temporary setback for Sydney Olympic who at no time looked like losing this game.

A glorious free-kick by Raskopoulos from a full 30 metres zipped under the Croatia crossbar to end the scoring, giving Olympic their 3-1 win.

Patikas was unlucky not to get a goal. He wasn't far off target with a long lob in the 35th minute and a chip in the 73rd minute.

Bearing in mind that he was fielding an experimental team to try out several potential signings, Croatia coach Atti Abonyi was not at all unhappy about the result.

And with Olympic's Schaefer even more content, it might be said a good time was had by all coaches!

Their defence tightened and they maintained pressure on the Melita back-four continually.

Dez Marton asserted his superiority throughout the game, involving himself in four goals.

A shot from him was blocked by Melita keeper McPherson, but teammate Peter Petkovski made no mistake with the rebound.

Saints levelled terms in the 36th minute when a cross from John O'Shea was headed in by his brother Michael.

Minutes before the break, Marton put the 1983 NSL champions ahead after he latched on to a mistimed clearance from his initial shot at goal which McPherson saved, but made no mistake with his second attempt.

St George opened out in the second half and on numerous occasions they toyed with the depleted Melita side. The back-four of Skeen, Ratcliffe and Michael and Robbie O'Shea were impregnable.

The goal of the game was scored in the 54th minute. Kozcka passed the ball to Marton, he flicked it up for Barton and his 20 metre first-time shot never looked like missing.

Marton sealed the issue with a low angled drive into goal following a cross from Robbie O'Shea on the left. The Saints could have scored an extra two goals when attempts from Pedro Ricoy and Robbie O'Shea hit the woodwork.

KOVACIC'S WINNER

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY CROATIA defeated a spirited Melita 1-0 in the third round of the Super Challenge Cup through a late goal by their experienced linkman, Marijan Kovacic.

Both teams showed a high level of fitness for so early in the season.

Melita struck trouble as early as the fifth minute, when they lost the services of left midfielder Billy Griffiths with a leg injury. He was replaced by Wayne Farnsworth.

Although the first half ended scoreless, Croatia had the edge and only through some fine work by Melita goalkeeper Alex McPherson prevented them from hitting the target.

For the second half, Melita brought on Sertbas and Andricopoulos to replace McKie and Farnsworth, whilst Croatia brought on Alex Kovacic to replace Tomasich.

Croatia scored in the

78th minute when, from the right flank, Paul Kirwan knocked a square ball into the Melita box for Marijan Kovacic to score from eight metres.

With only two minutes remaining to full-time, Croatia almost made it 2-0 when Shane Clinch broke clear and looked certain to score, but Melita's pacy centre-back Mike Fogerty covered the danger well.

In the dying seconds of the match, Melita almost levelled at the other end when replacement Paul Andricopoulos shot inches wide of the right post from only four metres out.

National coach Les Scheinflug was at the match and was impressed by Melita's McPherson and Dennis Duarte and Croatia's David Rezo.



□ YOU GO THIS WAY... Marijan Kovacic (right) takes the ball past Melita defender John Barrios (photos by DAVID JELLINGS)

SUPER CHALLENGE CUP ACTION



□ Croatia midfielder Wally Savor evades a tackle



□ St George striker Dex Marton shields the ball from Croatia's Tom Basic



□ Marshall Soper of Sydney Olympic challenges Melita keeper Alex McPherson



□ David Rezo and Don Allan challenge for the ball in the Croatia-Melita game



FRIENDSHIP CUP IN A.C.T.

BY BERNIE HARRIS

A NEW tournament aimed at providing vital pre-season competition for leading Canberra and Queanbeyan teams has been established through the Inter-Monaro Soccer Club.

But, as well as exposing new signings to local fans, the competition is aimed at achieving better relations among local Soccer clubs which in the past have had their differences, both real and imagined.

The series, to be known as the Friendship Cup, is the brainchild of Inter-Monaro's technical director, Dr Gianni D'Addario. His proposal was readily endorsed by Canberra Arrows coach Doug Collins and public relations and sponsorship manager Johnny Warren.

The cup and the costs of staging are to be met by Inter-Monaro whose major sponsor, Readymix, is enthusiastically supporting the venture.

The other teams to compete with Inter-Monaro are the Arrows and the Australian Institute of Sport and the Belconnen Soccer Club, which embraces the ACT's largest nursery of juniors.

Plans to include two of Canberra's leading local teams, premiers West Woden Juventus and Croatia Deakin, had to be shelved because of problems faced

by those clubs at this early stage of the season.

The Cup is to be conducted on a round-robin basis. The first two matches will be played on Saturday, February 11, with two further matches the following day. The games over the first weekend will be played at the Marco Polo ground, Queanbeyan.

On Sunday, February 19, the final two matches will be contested at the prestigious home of the Canberra Raiders Rugby League team — Seiffert Oval.

The team with the highest points score at the end of the tournament will collect the winner's trophy.

The proposal has the blessing of the NSW Soccer Federation and the favourite, Canberra Arrows, in particular will welcome the chance to blend old and new players into a solid unit.

The Arrows are not able to participate in Ampol Cup competition and must arrange their own pre-season outings.

Already Dr D'Addario is casting his eyes for-

ward to the 1985 Friendship Cup competition.

"We will certainly repeat the series," he told ASW, "but I would like to involve teams from outside the district, like St George."

Important as the games will be, the pervading hope must be that the mixing of fans of the teams involved will bring them to a better understanding that they are all supporters of Soccer.

Indeed, success off the field may overshadow the performances on the pitch.

INTER-MONARO AIMS FOR NSL

BY BERNIE HARRIS

THE NSW Soccer Federation's 1979 State League champion, Inter-Monaro, has embarked on an ambitious programme with two immediate goals in its sights — the 1984 premiership and admission to the National Soccer League.

These aspirations are not just the fanciful hopes of dedicated club officials. A restructuring of Inter-Monaro and a professional approach to the team are but two of the ingredients from which it is hoped success will be achieved.

The plans come from president Laurie Pastrello and newly-appointed technical director, Dr Gianni D'Addario. And extended also is the hand of friendship to all members of the Soccer fraternity in the Canberra and Queanbeyan area.

Both men have a long association with Soccer in the region. Pastrello was the mentor of the striking twins, Baz Giampaolo and Walter Valeri, and D'Addario was the founder of the ACT Soccer Federation's Academy of Soccer, which this year will train cadets in the age-groups Under 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The first step on the path to success was the elimination of the dual sporting club and Soccer club operation. Inter-Monaro now is supported by the Inter-Monaro Soccer Club. The Marco Polo Sporting and Social Club connection has been eliminated.

The second element was the appointment of D'Addario as technical director. In concept the position is for someone not closely connected with the politics of the club, but who has the support of the board.

He is to be responsible for the appointment of coaches, the selection of players and the running of the teams. He will organise the training squads and the program for the year.

Most importantly,

another task is to establish contact with other clubs and to engage in the promotion of Soccer at all levels in the district.

D'Addario sees his functions this way: "I am closer to that of the English manager. Really I am like Frank Arok of St George, except Arok is the direct coach of the team. I prefer to stay a little behind the scenes, while being deeply involved."

"Roberto Vieri is the coach and he and I will organise the squad and plan the strategy of the team."

D'Addario is highly critical of those clubs which, once contracts are signed, adopt a fiercely unbending master-servant approach to their players. It is not too false an interpretation that he sees himself as a father to "the lads".

Pastrello and D'Addario were foundation members of the Canberra City Soccer Club which brought the National League to the ACT in its first year. Lessons obviously have been learnt from that involvement.

D'Addario believes that the new NSL set-up has brought the strengths of State and NSL teams closer together. This is the basis for Inter-Monaro's NSL hopes.

In the past, Inter-Monaro has endured the problems created by its matches clashing with Canberra Arrows fixtures. The position was further complicated by the amazing success of the Canberra Raiders which regularly attract crowds in excess of 10,000 to their top Rugby League presentations.

D'Addario has com-

pleted preliminary discussions with Raiders officials for use of their home ground, Seiffert Oval, for Inter-Monaro's games in 1984.

He has the Rugby League draw and soon will add to it the NSL programme. Once the fixture list for the NSW State League is available he will set about the task of proposing match days which will avoid clashes with the Arrows and Raiders.

making full use of the excellent night lighting system at the National Sports Centre.

However, night matches involve the home club — the Arrows — meeting the accommodation costs of the visiting team for the overnight stay (unless the team is from Sydney) and this could provide a major stumbling block to D'Addario's plans.

And a further proposal concerning media exposure smacks of some impractical factors. D'Addario is concerned at the failure of the

proposing that Inter-Monaro be given coverage equal to that enjoyed by the Arrows. His suggestion is under consideration.

He readily acknowledges the difficulties in the past between the original Canberra City and his club. The Giampaolo-Valeri transfer wrangle caused many bitter confrontations, and both clubs suspect each other of adding a "nought" to transfer fees when the other is interested.

Recognising the unique situation many players find themselves in the ACT — simply put, they get set up with such good jobs that they are most reluctant to leave the district — he believes that special arrangements should be established between the Arrows and his club to facilitate the transfer of disgraced players.

D'Addario asserts that this proposal arises from his concern for the number of players in the district who have been forced to give the game away.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that many respects the shadow of the concept of Canberra City falls on the Inter-Monaro proposals. D'Addario mentions the belief that when one joined Inter-Monaro one was coming to a strong ethnic club.

He disavows the ethnic connotation. When formed, the Marco Polo club was strongly supported by the Italian community. But he claims that in the future it will be stressing its function as a strong local cosmopolitan club, not an ethnic organisation.

To this end, he will be assisted by, among others, former NSL referee Bob Mee, who is a member of the club.

And juniors are a part of the great strategy. After registration of junior teams, each will become the sponsor of an Inter-Monaro player.

But the simple fact is that two men, dedicated to the code, have embarked on an adventure which if it succeeds will be lauded for its enterprise. If they fail, it will not be for want of trying.



WALTER VALERI

As part of this proposal, Inter Monaro would prefer the Arrows to play on Saturdays, and initially this is likely to be the case. D'Addario has discussed this aspect with Arrows promotions manager, Johnny Warren.

He envisages Inter-Monaro playing on Sundays and the Arrows

local media to provide extensive coverage to Inter-Monaro.

With the knowledge that the Arrows are banking on substantially increased exposure this year, which will be the first full year of operation of Network 0/28 in the ACT, he has contacted the Network's sporting supervisor

FURORE OVER

BY GREG RUSSELL

QUEENSLAND Soccer Federation officials last week finally healed the rift which split the code wide apart in the Sunshine State — but it could be many months before the game makes up lost ground in the eyes of the State's sports followers.

Plans to restructure the Federation caused one of the biggest furores in years and left Queensland Soccer in turmoil for more than two months.

The in-fighting became almost laughable and confirmed to many outside the code Soccer's position as fourth of the footballs played in Queensland.

Thankfully sanity prevailed last week and the clubs and QSF management came to a compromise deal over the restructuring.

Management got much of the restructuring finally accepted by the clubs — for this year at least — and the clubs were able to gain what they considered were important concessions in relation to promotion and relegation.

With the season fast approaching, everyone was relieved that a solution had been reached and QSF president Ian Brusasco summed up the general feeling at the conclusion of last week's vital meeting when he said: "Let's start getting into the other codes rather than getting into another brawl with ourselves."

The compromise that the clubs finally accepted, almost unanimously, agreed to the restructuring committee's recommendation that there should be only two 10-team semi-professional divisions. All other clubs are to play in amateur competitions.

And the make-up of the semi-professional divisions will see four 1983 Premier League teams, including those from Brisbane City and Lions, relegated to the new Intermediate League (semi-pro second division).

But in accepting those recommendations, the clubs pushed for and got concessions on promotion and relegation, including the removal of the bar that prevented City and Lions from ever playing in the State's top competition.

Fears that the management committee would apply regional promotion, and hold teams in lower divisions until a higher-placed club from their area was relegated, were dispersed when management conceded to allow automatic promotion and relegation between the leagues.

The compromises were put in a resolution, "for the 1984 season only", so the solution is only short-term.

But Brusasco, who headed the four-man restructuring committee which recommended the sweeping changes, has said the committee, which is likely to be expanded, will now take another look.

He hopes to have a more acceptable format to put to the clubs by mid-season and once again attempts will be made to make the necessary constitutional changes.

The task may not be as tough as management found it late last year when a group of clubs superbly marshalled themselves to prevent the restructuring proposals from gaining the necessary two-thirds majority to become constitutional.

It was obvious at last week's meeting that support for the group was waning and, by scheduling another meeting for mid-year, clubs will be asked to vote before they know where they will finish at the end of the season.

That will overcome a further problem the management committee found that clubs, rather than voting on the principle of the restructuring, campaigned against it solely because it meant they were to be relegated.

But the restructuring is now a bridge which must be crossed again in the future.

The most important task for the code right now is to begin restoring its image.

FULL-TIME COACHES WORK IN TASMANIA

BY VAN DIEMEN

TWO Tasmanian Cadbury State League (South) clubs have taken the unprecedented step of appointing full-time coaches for the 1984 season.

Juventus-Pioneer, the reigning champion, has appointed Ken Morton, the former Wollongong and Heidelberg coach, while Olympia has appointed Otto Klaus, formerly of Ulverstone.

Both coaches will have similar roles at their respective clubs. They will, in effect, be the "directors of coaching," having prime responsibility for the first and reserve teams whilst also directing the work of the coaches in charge of the clubs' remaining sides, including the juniors.

This type of appointment is a logical and sensible one and has long been overdue in Tasmania. It will be interesting to see if it leads to an improvement in the standard of Soccer at the clubs concerned.

It should, and the effects will, hopefully, rub off on other clubs in the League.

Morton is no stranger to Tasmanian or mainland fans. He successfully coached Rapid-Wrest Point before joining Wollongong in the NSL for two seasons. He coached Heidelberg last year before being dismissed and returning to Tasmania where he took over Croatia-Glenorchy towards the end of the season following the sacking of John Grimsey.

Otto Klaus coached in New South Wales for many years before joining Ulverstone in 1982. The club won the State-wide Ampol Cup in his first

season so he achieved instant success in Tasmania.

Olympia, which finished third in the Cadbury League last year, will be hoping that he is as successful with the Greek side first up!



□ OTTO KLAUS

Four clubs have retained their coaches of last season: Rapid-Wrest Point (David Croason), Metro-Claremont (Barry Shacklady), University (Ron Coutts), and newly-

promoted Phoenix (Jerome Marron).

Croatia-Glenorchy has appointed Frank Letec, a former player, while Caledonians look like hiring Brian MacKay, who coached Olympia last season.

Calies had reappointed Eamon Kelly, who performed wonders with the team last year, but he recently resigned for personal reasons.

It looks as if Tasmanian fans can look forward to an exciting season.

The presence once more of Ken Morton should generate much publicity in the local media, something the game desperately needs.

He has always managed to generate publicity in the past and, now, by being in charge of the champion, the team everyone will want to beat, he shouldn't find it too difficult to do so again.



□ RON COUTTS (left) and BARRY SHACKLADY

AD CITY MAY FIELD NEW PLAYERS

ADELAIDE CITY could have four new players in their line-up when they kick off their SA Ampol Cup campaign against Para Hills at Hindmarsh Stadium tomorrow night.

As we went to press they were negotiating with Polonia for Polish import Jan Kierno, and for an English striker who has been training with the club for six weeks, but has still to be named.

Coach Edmund Kreft was also hoping to sign two more local players.

As the squad stands, it is weak compared to last year, with sweeper Neil Banfield not yet back from England, midfielder Stewart Blair wanting to return to Azzurri and full-back Glenn Dods retired.

This is probably the smallest senior squad the club has kicked off with since the NSL started.

Fortunately for City, Para has not done any spectacular recruiting during the close-season, and the skills of striker Joe Mullen, winger Charlie Villani and midfielder Sergio Melita should be

enough to bring the goals for City.

Para has proved the weakest team in recent Ampol series, but then bounced back in the winter league.

It could be the same story this season.

BY TOM MCKAIN

In the early game tomorrow, Polonia and Croatia make their debuts for 1984, and here again there have been no significant signings.

Indeed, there are weaknesses, with Croatia having lost midfielder and captain Steve Caggiano interstate, centre-back Peter Herd negotiating with Azzurri, and English import and top striker Gary Price out with a nagging hamstring injury.

Polonia's Kierno has not trained since starting negotiations with City

and Peter Stanczak, an all-round defender, is now coaching Elizabeth City and striker Steve Papadopoulos has gone to West Adelaide.

This looks like anyone's

Opening night saw West knock out Ampol Cup holders Azzurri 1-0 with a penalty from captain Graham Honeyman, who formed a new double stopper partnership with former skipper Neil McGachey, making a comeback.

New coach Sam Salabasidis has West playing one-touch Soccer, and it could pay off once the team is at full strength.

In the other opening night game, Birkalla pulled off a surprise by holding League champions Beograd 1-1, and is obviously going to shake a few of the more fancied teams

ILLAWARRA JOTTINGS

BY PHIL MURPHY

PREMIER League club Bulli have kept morale high with weekly golf tournaments during the off-season.

Players and officials have criticised handicapper Gary Mann and his assistant Paul Hancox consistently and they now know how Soccer referees feel.

Hancox, a star player with Bulli in the '60s, had his share of luck at Illawarra Course on Madden's Plains recently.

His tee shot on the second hole looked certain to hit the water in an adjacent dam but struck a tree, landed next to the green and he had a par.

Coach Norm Flanagan, himself a keen golfer, is worried that some of the players will have trouble getting out of the habit of golf on a Saturday afternoon when the Soccer premiership starts.

RUSSELL Vale obviously feel that if West-Figtree can win the League and grand final with two coaches so can they



Figtree have had Luke Robaard and Phil Carr in the coaching job recently and won the double for the last two seasons.

Russell Vale have adopted the same policy with Frank Brindley and John Morris taking over from Gary Masters this year.

Brindley is a former Bellambi and Russell Vale player who has had coaching experience while Morris was a well-known player with Corrimall and Fernhill.

They have retained the talents of striker Paul Morgan. Brindley is confident the young player will be a lot more dangerous this season.

FIRST Division Warrawong are in an enviable position this year.

They have gained a \$5,000 sponsorship from a Port Kembla food store and have made it known they will be handing out good match payments in the new season.

Club spokesman George Stojanovski says it is the first time Warrawong have been able to offer players decent money but they haven't been rushed by new players.

"We are hoping to get one or two who were formerly with Premier League clubs to bolster our side," he said.

"Our aim is to qualify for the Premier League in 1985."

Warrawong plan to play all their home games on Kemblawarra Oval — home of Port Kembla rugby league team.

SOME Illawarra Soccer players are boycotting early-season training and who can blame them?

Clubs seem to start training within weeks of

the end of the old season and players just get sick of the sight of a Soccer ball.

Second division Germania started training on January 3 — a week before even NSL outfit Wollongong City.

It doesn't seem that long ago that district clubs started their training early in March and the competitions started the first week in April.

Under the present set-up, players will be stale by the time the semi-finals come around late in August and clubs get best value from the players who won't train in the middle of summer.

DAVID Naylor faces a tough task if the current exodus of first grade players continues.

Naylor gained the job recently but there are reports that several of last season's first grade squad are moving on.

Three have already made it clear they will follow former coach Robert Fryer to first division Aris.

It would be unfortunate if Coniston are forced to struggle because they have been one of the more progressive Premier League sides in recent years.

DOVETON TO GET NELSON

BY GARY CUTLER

VICTORIAN State league side Doveton have bought back Jimmy Nelson to Australia from the UK.

Coach Hammy McMeeken has shown interest in the Scottish striker since the end of last season but has had one major problem to

Nelson, who played for Juventus last season, is a temporary visa player and the Doveton club already have their full quota of visa players.

Reports were being circulated that with the Juventus club signing another visa player in Joe Sweeney, they too had filled all of their vacancies and Nelson would have to remain in the UK where he is at present on holiday.

This week the Immigration Department informed me that one of the Doveton players, Ian Sturton, has been approved for permanent residence and will be passed as soon as he returns from holiday.

This means that Doveton now have room for one visa player and Nelson has filled the vacancy.

Nelson will be a valuable asset to the club as his strong style of play is certain to cause problems for some of the youngsters who will be playing in the State League next season.

ANDY McMILLAN, the former Albion Rovers defender, is looking for a new club. Last season he played at Hamlyn Rangers but will listen to offers before he signs with the club again.

NORTHCOTE ON THE MOVE

BY GARY CUTLER

WITH the season only a matter of six weeks away, one club who still have problems as far as players are concerned is Northcote City.

At the end of last season the team had done what was asked of them and consolidated the club in the middle of the ladder.

But when this season came along and pre-season training started, coach Tony Vrzina found that there were only six players at the first training session.

Vrzina said: "We had a lot of players who were overseas for various reasons and there were a few players who were in dispute with the club."

One of the biggest losses to the side will be the transfer of Steve Moore to Morwell Falcons.

At this stage the club have not found a replacement for the club's top scorer in 1983.

Vrzina was not happy throughout last season with his strike-force, and has already strengthened that department by signing Mick Misefsky.

He is also having talks with former Slavia player Billy Wuld, although there is some doubt about the amount the Slavia club want for him.

John Creaney has returned to Scotland for personal reasons and the club have placed him on the transfer list as it is not known when or if he will be back in Australia.

Other players to be placed on the list are former Heidelberg winger Jimmy Sahinidis, striker Spiros

Tsetas and goalkeeper Laurie Ostrowsky.

A leading committeeman told me this week that the club were at present having talks with a number of players and there would soon be new faces to add to the players already there.

Rumours around the club that there was unrest between the committee and some of the supporters were crushed last week when the players and committee got together for a clear-the-air meeting.



"The greatest crowd puller of all time wants to sign on..."

USA INDOOR TOUR A BIG SUCCESS

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS, who toured with the teams

AUSTRALIA well and truly stamped itself on the International Indoor Soccer map after a successful tour of the USA West Coast.

Three teams, men's, women's and youth, played six matches each with only four defeats between them. The touring sides had been selected from the 1983 Australian Indoor Soccer Championships.

The two week tour, which took in Seattle and

Los Angeles, was well received by the American hosts. Each team played three matches in both cities.

All teams suffered problems and setbacks — the major ones being adjustment to the American rules, the extra time involved in each game,

rounded corners, poor refereeing, the cold Seattle weather and the transition to playing on astro turf.

In Australia (going by Amateur Indoor Soccer Federation rules), the game averages 20 minutes with six players on the field and two re-

serves.

In America, the game is played in four 15 minute quarters with up to six reserves allowed to change at any time. The American version is played at a faster pace with the emphasis on quick passing and powerful shooting.

Not surprisingly, all three teams lost their first match in Los Angeles but bounced back with a vengeance to record excellent results during the remainder of the tour.



ASW's Andrew Paschalidis is pictured with the Australian men's indoor team (next to Charlie Chaplin)

WOMEN

The Women's side was led by captain-coach Lyn Olsen (NSW). It comprised Vanessa Clayton and Kay O'Sullivan (Queensland), Marie Doyle and Mandy Vanvacus (South Australia) and Donna Cooper-thwaite, Andre Holmes,

Kathy McCully, Joanne Ellis, Sondra Laurenson and Sharon Young.

In the Los Angeles section the results were as follows:

Californian Shinbusters 3-6

V Coast Soccer League 1-2

V Californian Chippers 2-2

The Seattle section of

the tour was the most difficult. The first game was played against the Washington State Champions and National Champions, FC Seattle. They fought back after being behind 6-1 at one stage to trail only 9-6 but in the end Seattle's skill proved trumps and they ran out winners 15-6.

In the remaining games

the Australians asserted their superiority defeating Federal Way 8-5 and Seattle University 8-4.

They should be commended for their efforts. On numerous occasions, injuries depleted their playing strength and this forced some players to play for the entire duration of some games.

Players to stand out were captain-coach Lynn Olsen, goalkeeper Donna Cooperthwaite, defenders Mandy Vanvacus and Sharon Young and striker Kathy McCully, who scored 20 goals in just six

games. Lynn Olsen was pleased with the efforts but felt that the Australians could learn from the American version of the game.

"I think the Americans have something that we should take a look at to improve our standards and awareness of the differences that we will experience at international level," Olsen said.



ABOVE: The Australian women's representative team pictured at Sydney's Mascot Airport.



LEFT: Ernie Campbell scores for Australia.

RIGHT: Australia's first international indoor Soccer referee Scott Mitchell is pictured right at the Hollywood wax-works.

YOUTH

THE "babes" of the tour were fine ambassadors.

The dazzling skills and workmanlike team efforts delighted crowds everywhere they played.

The side comprised players under the age of 19 but in fact a majority of them were under 17.

In the Los Angeles part of the tour the results were

V Orange Warhocks 5-9

V Californian Cougars (Sth Californian Champions) 9-3

V Sth Californian Select 8-3

In Seattle the team performed admirably winning two games and drawing one. In the first game they drew with Tacoma Sports 8-8 after leading 3-0.

In the second game they played a select Seattle side, which had just returned from a successful tour of Germany, and trounced them 9-1.

The Australian team were matched against the US National Champions and convincingly defeated them 14-8 after leading 10-1 at half-time.

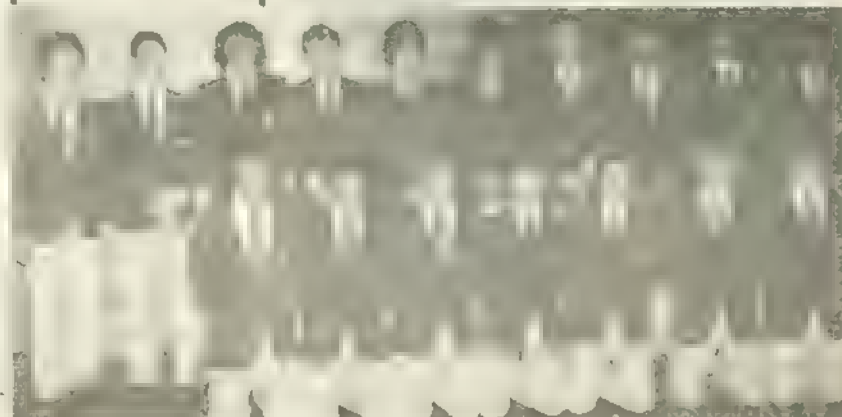
There were many players to stand out and the pick of the bunch were captain Andy Beckers, midfielders George Kalegoras and Craig Druce and strikers Leon Moon and Aytac Genc who each slammed in 14 goals.

Coach Les Gabor was ecstatic with the way his team performed.

"Before we left Australia the boys already had the skill, speed and technique, it was a matter of blending the team together as a unit.

"Their will to win and never say die attitude following the first game indicated the typical fighting spirit of this young Australian team."

BELOW: The U19 Youth team, who had a successful tour



MEN

The men's team completed a victorious tour winning four games, drawing one and losing one. Most of their games were played against professional and semi-professional sides who had perfected the art of American Indoor Soccer.

This side was flooded with talented players but coach Nick Nicolopoulos developed them into a skilful and well-drilled unit.

In the Los Angeles section of the tour the results were as follows.

V Sth Californian Vikings

V Fullerton-Smith 8-6

V Sth Californian Select 11-3

In Seattle the team suffered major drawbacks with injuries to key players. The team rallied together to record vital victories in some very close games.

V Seattle Adonis 12-10

V Tacoma Sports 5-5

V Washington Select 7-6

Overall, this was a very successful tour for the men. The individual talent of some of the players shocked the Americans and it was not surprising to see a couple of them trial with professional sides at the end of the tour.

Captain Alan Walker led his side to perfection. He was well backed

up by Alan Beck in defence, Ernie Campbell (ex-Socceroo) and Alan Scott and Urkin Osman, who each scored 10 spectacular goals.

Coach Nick Nicolopoulos was pleased with the effort from his players.

"The major problem I encountered early in the trip was trying to blend together the players from Interstate with the NSW players into one complete unit.

"Many injuries developed in Seattle and in one game I had to use the youth coach as a reserve. Many of the players' individual talents far exceeded those of the opposition," Nicolopoulos said.



TRIXIE TAGG GREW UP IN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY DON BALMAIN

A blonde, six year old girl, playing Soccer at primary school in Holland rose to become national coach of Australia and is our second story on Life Members.

That is the success story of Trixie Tagg in a nutshell.

Following her early introduction to the game, Trixie spent the next six years playing social Soccer with the neighbourhood boys in her home town.

At the age of 12, Trixie migrated with her family

to Australia where she settled in the St George (Sydney) district.

When she started high school at Kogarah Girls High, women's Soccer was virtually unknown in Australia.

After spending four years at high school, Trixie left to start her first job. One day during her lunch break, Trixie casually glanced at a Sydney newspaper and a couple of

pictures of girls playing with a Soccer ball caught her eye.

Women's Soccer was just starting at that time in Sydney and the article with photos was all the motivation that Trixie needed.

Following up with a phone call to Pat O'Connor, she went along to see the girls and Trixie started her Soccer success story.

Her first club was the Sydney Football Club Prague Ladies.

After an initial try-out, Trixie was invited to play her first game at the Sydney Athletic Field. The match was a curtain-raiser for an important men's fixture.

Some of the more senior women players will remember names like Crystal Gail, Pat O'Connor and Sue Forster as members of that side.

After leaving school, Trixie became a quality controller laboratory assistant but shortly afterwards, decided to try for university.

She took a day-time job which allowed her plenty of time to study for her Higher School Certificate. After two years part-time study, Trixie, armed with her HSC pass, set off for Sydney University.

At first she decided on a science degree but changed courses and ended up with a degree in physical education.

Following her University study, Trixie was employed by the NSW Dept of Education.

Her first teaching appointment, five years ago, was at the Birrong Girls High (Sydney).

Trixie soon introduced women's Soccer to the school and with an en-

thusiastic headmaster backing her, the idea snowballed and girls turned out in droves before school to train.

Being on the mobile relief staff at that stage, Trixie was moved to the Burwood Girls High School, in Sydney's western suburbs and although

for females to join with the men coaches on the course.

Trixie took a junior team to America and the average age of these girls was 14. It was called the NSW Women's Youth Squad and consisted of 16 players.

The team was away for



she again introduced Soccer to the school, she did not have the same success as at Birrong.

Her third appointment was to the Bankstown Girls High School which was right in the middle of a strong Soccer stronghold.

Women's Soccer took off rocket-like at the school and at one stage, Trixie was coaching three teams. She coached before school, at lunchtime and after school as well.

During her teaching career and coaching school sides, Trixie found time to play Soccer herself.

The St George side was her first Soccer club after Prague. She played there until most of the girls joined the newly-formed Marconia women's side.

At representative level, Trixie has played for St George, Marconi and Bankstown. She was also a representative player for NSW from 1974 until 1980.

Trixie also played for an Australian XI which took part in the first women's Asian Cup in Hong Kong.

As Trixie became more involved in coaching, her playing days were numbered.

Her final playing appearance was with the NSW State side in Darwin where she played in the 1980 nationals.

Her first major coaching involvement was with the NSW U15 side. Trixie holds the preliminary coaching badge but was not able to obtain a higher class of coaching five years ago because there was a lack of opportunity

three weeks during which it played club and representative sides in Los Angeles for five wins and a draw from six games.

Although she was three months pregnant, Trixie took on the job of national coach with Australia in New Zealand in 1981.

She was elected unopposed as national coach after Jim Selby, the regular, was unavailable.

Asked if the birth of her son meant the end of Soccer for her, Trixie was most adamant that it was merely a pause in her activities and said that although she would be spending more time with her family, she would like to become active in coaching again soon.

Her second child, Alana-Marie, a petite version of Trixie, was born in November last year.

Trixie has held a number of important positions in Soccer administration.

She has been the Australian Women's Soccer registrar, the Australian publicity officer for two years and now holds the position of NSW vice-president.

Asked her impressions on women's Soccer, Trixie said that it was becoming wider known and much more acceptable as a girls' sport.

There had been a definite increase in numbers but now what was needed was for the quantity to start producing quality.

Trixie felt that provision of junior coaching camps was needed very much and at national level there has to be a way in which the in-between girls, the ones too old for the Under 15 titles and too young for the open sides, can gain recognition.

AUSSIE GIRLS IN PROFILE

★ 1. RENAYE ISERIEF ★



BY JOHN ECONOMOS

LAST November in New Caledonia, Australia faced New Zealand in the opening match of the inaugural Womens' Oceania Cup tournament.

Australia knew from the outset that New Zealand would prove to be her hardest opponent over New Caledonia and Fiji, the other nations competing for this Cup.

Australia took the pitch for this match with their strike-force consisting of veteran Julie Porter and the pacy 20-year-old Renaye Iserief.

New Zealand had a powerfully built goalkeeper, Angela Hall.

Five minutes after the kick-off, dynamic Renaye busted the New Zealand defence and raced away on the right side. On the run, Renaye let fly with a cracking shot but Angela had the shot well covered.

However, the sheer power of Renaye's shot was enough to ricochet off the goalkeeper's hands into her jaw, and over the bar.

Two hours after the match, I spoke to the Kiwi goalkeeper. She said she felt like being hit with a sledge-hammer, such was the scorching pace of Renaye's shot.

Renaye is one of Australia's new breed in women's Soccer.

Born in Newcastle and raised in Budgewoi on the Central Coast, Renaye is a quietly spoken, good natured girl, who thinks of little else but playing Soccer.

She readily admits that she owes all she knows of the code to her club and State coach, Mr Lionel Sneyd.

"Besides Mr Sneyd, I owe a lot to my parents for all the support they have always given me since I was a young lad," Renaye said.

During the Oceania Cup tournament, Renaye hit the target three times out of Australia's total of 18 goals.

Renaye has two essentials that a striker MUST possess — power and pace.

PERSONAL BRIEF

BORN: February 6, 1963.

BIRTHPLACE: Newcastle.

HEIGHT: 5' 10."

TEAMS PLAYED FOR: Budgewoi, Central Coast, State reps, Australia.

PLAYING POSITION: Striker.

OCCUPATION: Previously a sports-store manager, currently unemployed.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Glenn Hoddle.

AMBITIONS: To keep playing for my current club and Australia. To be happy and healthy as well.

NUMBER OF CAPS FOR AUSTRALIA: 7.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Our last match against New Zealand in the Cup Final. It had everything from tension, entertainment to excitement.

HOW CAN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER BE IMPROVED?: We have to play matches against European countries. We also need support from the Australian public, together with more and better media exposure for the girls.

SERIOUS INJURIES: None really. Just the normal knocks.

DISLIKES IN SOCCER: The dirty players that are in the game who just go out to butcher you. Also bad losers and suffering any type of injury.

OBVIOUS REMEDIES: Much stricter refereeing, with far harsher penalties for the specific offenders. Also a better knowledge of sports medicine to be made available to all the players.

GLADESVILLE GIRLS GO FOR GOLD

"GO FOR GOLD" is the cry among local girls playing Soccer.

In the last 12 months the young Gladesville-Hornsby Women's Football Association has gained an impressive number of honours.

The senior representative team burst into prominence in 1982 by winning the inaugural South Pacific Cup in the Noumea tournament.

They followed this in 1983 by defeating all contenders in the NSW Championships in June, and then a few weeks ago won the South Pacific Cup for the second successive year.

The youngsters were not to be overshadowed.

The Under 15 representative team were crowned Metropolitan In-

ter-District Champions in their first year of competition.

The Under 17 representative team gained the championship in the rugged annual Central Coast Tournament.



At club level, Epping-Eastwood won the post-season Champion of Champions title by defeating Forest (Manly) 2-0 in the final.

Five of the G.H. U15 players were selected in the NSW team which won

the National Championship in Canberra: Ann Hiron (vice-captain), Suzie Coughie, Sharon Millar, Bronwynne Melene and Lyndal Mudie.

In addition, five senior girls played in the NSW team. Leigh Wardell was named in the Australian team as well.

It's a hard act to follow but the girls will be trying to do it all again in 1984. For a start, Gladesville-Hornsby is host to the NSW Women's Soccer Championships on the June long weekend at Morrison Bay, Gladesville. The home crowd will be barracking for a repeat performance as State champions.

VITAL ROLE FOR AUSSIE SCHOOLS

THE NEED for an Australian Schools' Soccer Federation grew out of the interstate series between New South Wales and South Australia conducted from 1968-1974.

Bob Quimby, the successful coach of the NSW teams which defeated SA, USA (Boston Schools), NZ Schools and Queensland in 1968-69 organised an initial meeting in 1972.

This meeting was also attended by F. Deegan (chairman), Denes Adrigan (then president of the Australian Coaches' Federation) and Jack Dodd (NSW CHS convenor).

During 1973, Bob Quimby actively promoted the idea among the State Government school organisations and, in a meeting of State Soccer convenors, the support Bob's plan to involve all schools was accepted.

The first interstate U18 championships were conducted in 1975, but it was not until 1980 that all States participated.

The winners and runners-up to date are—

Winner	Runner-Up
1975 Victoria	Northern NSW
1976 Northern NSW	Victoria
1977 Victoria	South Australia
1978 Northern NSW	Victoria
1979 Victoria	NSW
1980 NSW	South Australia
1981 Victoria	NSW
1982 No competition test series between NSW and Qld	
1983 ACT	NSW

In 1975 the Federation conducted the first National Cup, (Australia-wide schools competition). In its first year the

Cup was sponsored by Toyota and won by Footscray Technical School (Victoria).

In 1976, the Cup was sponsored by Coca-Cola and won by Bankstown Boys High (NSW).

The competition has since lapsed through lack of sponsors.

In 1974 the Federation organised a series of matches with the Under 15 English Schools FA team which visited Australia.

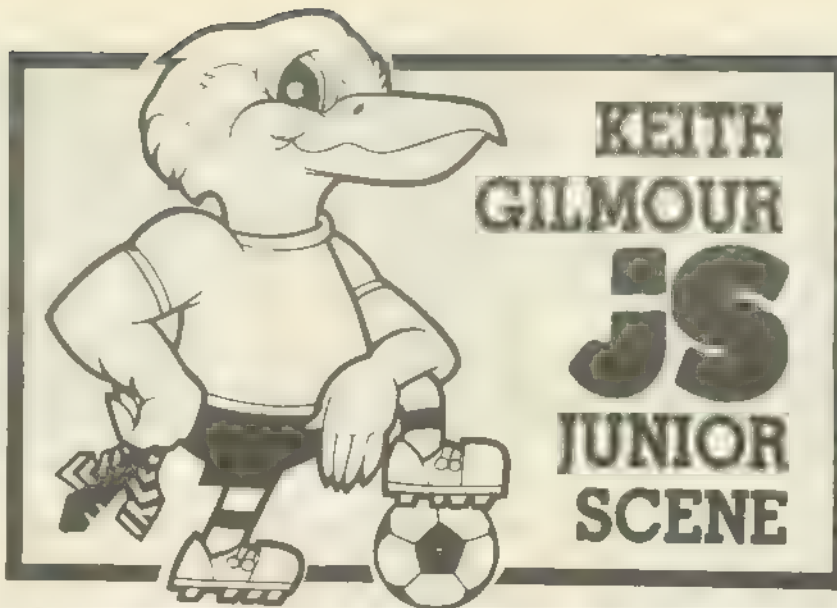
A major objective was achieved with the international tour to Canada and the USA in August, 1978. This was only achieved through the tremendous efforts of the tour leaders, Bob Quimby, Jack Dodd and Bill Turner, to gain sponsorship and assistance.

The last few years have seen major changes in the Constitution and the Standard Rules and Regulations of the ASSF as it has endeavoured to establish itself under the ASSSF as the policy-making body for interstate sport at the secondary school level.

The way is now open for all States and Territories who so desire to participate in the Australian Secondary Schools' Soccer Championships.

The revised age level of Under 20, also makes the competition open to all secondary school students.

This year the Commonwealth Bank has taken over from the CBC (National Australia) Bank as the major sponsor for the Championships, which must now grow from strength to strength.



NSW UNDER 13 STATE TEAM

BACK ROW (left to right): Ian Lloyd (coach) Simon Hull, James Warren, Steve Geogakis, Zoran Naumovski, Stan Ackerley (trainer). MIDDLE ROW: Giuseppe Russo, Gareth Smith, Ian Padewski, Andrew Long, Scott Bowen, Steve Dimoudis. FRONT ROW: Doug Hamilton, Gray Coutts, Matthew Toohey, John Filan, Steve McClean, Mineo Bonetig.

NSW U13 SUCCESS

THE NSW Under 13 team, coached by Ian Lloyd and with Fred Bones as manager and former Socceroo left-back Stan Ackerley as trainer, won the 1983 Australian Championship at Alice Springs.

The two other NSW teams, Under 14 and 15, each ran fourth. The officials who looked after the boys were: U15 coach John Hedison, manager Bob Maundrell and trainer Bernard O'Flaherty; U14 coach Vince Balzan, manager George Churchward and trainer Frank Wilson.



The leading school officials at the ASSF championships in Brisbane. From left Mr Duncan Summers, the top man in Tasmania schools Soccer who could be the organiser of the titles this year, Mr David Harris of Brisbane, a past president of the ASSF and Mr Neville Wagner, secretary of the QSSSF.

LOFTUS TAKE 'GRAND SLAM'

BY GLEN S. ROBINSON

THE LOFTUS Rovers all-age team is the first team ever to win the grand slam of amateur Soccer.

They beat the highly-fancied Milperra Vikings 2-0 at Seymour Shaw in the final of the NSW Champion of Champions competition.

They had already won the Admiral Cup, which is the local competition, the NSW Amateur Cup, a State-wide competition open to allcomers, and now the Champion of Champions.

The game was played in front of 2,600 vocal supporters and it started off at a blistering pace.

The first half definitely belonged to Loftus, but they could not penetrate the solid Viking defence. Many promising moves were thwarted at the last moment.

The score at half-time was 0-0.

The second half saw the Vikings throw everything

at Loftus and for the first 20 minutes they looked dangerous.

But the Loftus midfield and defence held strong.

In the 85th minute with black storm clouds gathering overhead and lightning flashing everywhere, David Harrison slotted home a beautiful goal from a scramble in the goalmouth.

The Vikings once again threw everything at Loftus and almost ran themselves to a standstill.

A loose ball was picked up by Shane Keating, the Loftus captain, who ran three-quarters of the length of the field to score from the left wing position.

It was one of the goals this old campaigner has seen. It came hard and low from the left wing inside the near post and

the goalkeeper did not move.

The whole game was a delight to watch with hard, fast, skilful football. Neither team gave an inch and the game was in the balance until the last five minutes.

At the celebrations after the game, captain Shane Keating paid a tribute to manager Jim

(Hoppy) Hopkins. Hoppy has been able to get the best out of boys.

A presentation was made to the team by Miss Debbie Brown. Debbie was the Loftus entrant in the Miss Soccer competition and had been crowned Miss Sutherland Soccer the previous night.

It was a great season for the Loftus Club.

CONTACT POINTS

NSW AFFILIATED REFEREES

President: A J POLLARD
4 Mura Ave, Winmallee, 2777 Phone (047) 54 1839

Secretary: R BEAUMONT
496 Blaxland Rd, Eastwood, 2122
Phone (02) H 85 7371 B.896 1152

Appointments secretary: W LODGE
22 Henry St, Lewisham, 2049 Phone (02) 560 6953

NSW COACHES FEDERATION

Secretary: E. ARNEIL
21 Sphinx Avenue, Padstow, 2211. Phone (02) 77 8928

U13 MINI AMPOL CUP AT PARKLEA

ROUNDS 1 AND 2 — SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

GROUP A — 9 am

St George v Manly
Sydney Olympic v Gladesville

Blacktown Assn bye

GROUP B — 10 10 am

Illawarra v Marconi
Melita v Macarthur

Croatia v Canterbury

GROUP C — 11 20 am

Bankstown v Granville
Southern Districts v Blacktown City

Sutherland v Auburn

GROUP D — 12 30 pm

APIA v Canterbury-Marrickville
Avala v Baulkham Hills

North Bankstown v Ku-ring-gai

GROUP A — 1 40 pm

St George v Gladesville
Sydney Olympic v Blacktown Assn

Manly bye

GROUP B — 2 50 pm

Illawarra v Macarthur
Melita v Canterbury

Croatia v Marconi

GROUP C — 4 pm

Bankstown v Blacktown City
Southern Districts v Auburn

Sutherland v Granville

GROUP D — 5 10 pm

APIA v Baulkham Hills
Avala v Ku-ring-gai

North Bankstown v Canterbury-Marrickville

St George Soccer Association Committee
1984: President - W Dobson; Senior vice-president - G. Dalley; Junior vice-president - R. Mason; Secretary - J. Hedison; Assistant secretary - J. Preston; Treasurer - Mrs J. Dawson; Registrar - Mrs J. Clow; Recorder - A. Christopher; Liaison officer - F. Burgess; Gear steward - F. Burgess; Sydney Branch delegates - G. Dalley, R. Mason; Floor members - S. Wallis, W. Rigby, B. Long

SYDNEY

CONTACTS

ARE you a player, or a coach or manager of a team looking to join up to play Soccer?

Listed below are the secretaries of the different associations who will be pleased to have you placed.

The list covers the Sydney Metropolitan area and the South Coast.

The Campbelltown area belongs to the Southern Branch. The contact for Campbelltown and surrounding districts is the Macarthur Soccer Association secretary Mr Ross Andrews, 61 Kader St, Bargo, Phone (046) 84 1369.

No sport has Sydney better covered than Soccer.

Sydney Branch secretary: Mr F. BONES, 75 Prince Charles Rd, Frenchs Forest, 2086. Phone (02) 451 4064.

Bankstown: Mr E. DRURY, 32 Weston St, Revesby, 2212. Phone (02) 733 3052.

Blacktown: Mr A. LOBLEY, 5 Flame Pl, Blacktown, 2148. Phone (02) 621 1580.

Canterbury: Mr J. WAKELING, PO Box 297, Leichhardt, 2040. Phone (02) 624 8427.

Gladesville: Mr S. GRANT, c/- R. Iredale, 18 Vexney Dr, West Pennant Hills. Phone (02) 84 6745.
Granville: Mr D. MacDOUGALL, 9 Hillary St, Winston Hills, 2153. Phone (02) 624 5950.

Illawarra: Mrs J. BURNS, 44 Girraween Ave, Warilla, 2528. Phone (042) 96 5771.

Ku-ring-gai: Mr R. WOODS, PO Box 147, Pymble, 2073. Phone (02) 44 7069.

Manly: Mr L. LEMS, 18 Cook St, Forestville, 2087. Phone (02) 451 8825.

Nepean: Mrs B. HORLEY, 53 Second Ave, Kingswood, 2750. Phone (047) 36 4196.

St George: Mr J. HEDISON, PO Box 347, Hurstville, 2220. Phone (02) 570 3772.

South & East: Mr SIL VENTURA, 55 Byng St, Maroubra, 2035. Phone (02) 344 0777.

Southern Dist: Mr J. WILSON, 6 Swanley St, Mt Pritchard, 2170. Phone (02) 607 4522.

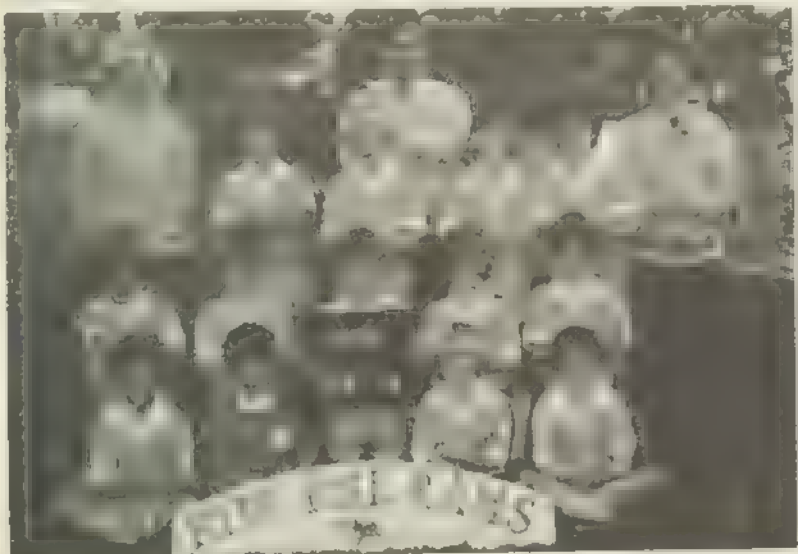
Sutherland: Mr L. RUSHBROOK, PO Box 231, Miranda, 2228. Phone (02) 525 2416.

RYDE RAMS HOME

RYDE RSL Rams Under 9/4 side won its second premiership in succession after completing the 1983 competition undefeated.

The boys managed to score a total of 25 goals during the season while conceding only four.

They also won the Dundas United Under 9 knockout, defeating Greystanes 1-0 in the final.



The team (from left), is -
Bottom Row: Roberto Fabbretti, Peter Marzullo, Rodney Horton, Tony Crawford
Middle Row: Scott Isaacs, Shayne Fowler, Daryl McIntosh, Sean Colwell, John Mason
Top Row: Adam Dickinson, Philip Gelding, Christopher Sumner, William Aloisi
Back Row: manageress Fay Horton; coach Brian McIntosh; co-manager Dianne Crawford



ILLAWARRA Under 12 goalkeeper Derek Morton and four other Illawarra players are involved in this goalmouth incident in their match against Canterbury. Illawarra at this stage had played six games for five wins and a draw and had not yet conceded a goal.



TWO great stalwarts of Northern NSW junior Soccer — Bill Douglas (left) and John Jones. Mr Douglas has been a long-time official. Mr Jones has had a long involvement with the Lake Macquarie Association and is secretary of the strong Northern NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

KEEP THEM COMING

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY has an insatiable appetite for your news stories and pictures which

will be published in the magazine and on the website.

Keep them coming to NSW P.U. Box 10, Sydney NSW 2001. We want to publicise your activities.



AUSTRALIA'S U15 INTERNATIONALS



STELLIOS (STAN) THODIS

CLUB: Doncaster Rovers.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: Victorian Soccer Federation

POSITIONS PLAYED: Striker (out wide).

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 4

OTHER SPORTS: Karate, Athletics.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYER: Alan Davidson.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Trevor Francis.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Regional Team U13 and

14, Vic State squad U13, Vic State Team U14.

AMBITION: To continue to improve in my game of Soccer to such a level that hopefully one day I would be able to represent Victoria at senior level and then go on to representing Australia.



PAOLO (PAUL) TRIMBOLI

CLUB: Brighton.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: Victorian Soccer Federation.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Striker and midfield.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 8.

OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, Basketball, Australian Rules Football, Swimming.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS: Alan Davidson.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Trevor Francis.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Victorian regionals U12, 13, 14 Victorian State team U13, 14.

AMBITION: To represent Australia at all levels and in a World Cup. Maybe trial overseas. If not I'd like to be a physical education teacher.

ALFIO CATALANO

CLUB: Brisbane City.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: Brisbane North.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Left wing, striker

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 9.

OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Tennis, Athletics

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYER: Steve Perry.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Bruno Conti (Italy).

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Brisbane U10, 12, 13,

14, 15. Old U15. (U13 & 14 not played due to injury).

AMBITION: To go to Italy and play professional Soccer.



GARETH NAVEN

CLUB: Gosnells City.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: WA Junior Association.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Left full-back, sweeper.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 8.

OTHER SPORTS: Squash, Basketball, Cricket, Water Polo, Athletics.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS: Craig Johnston.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Brian Robson.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: U10, 11, 12 Central Districts. WA State team U13 (twice) and U14.

AMBITION: To go to the Canberra Institute of Sport and play for the Socceroos.

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NSW JUNIOR COACHES

OFFICIALS to handle NSW representative teams in the 1984 Australian Championships have been appointed.

They are

U15 Perth coach Vince Balzan, manager George Churchwood, trainer Frank Wilson.

U14 Melbourne coach John Haynes, manager Harne Denning, trainer Stan Ackerley.

U13 Newcastle coach Max Groll, manager John Hedison.

FRANK FINLAY — CRUSADER FOR ALBURY'S JUNIORS

THIS week's feature on Soccer in the border district of Albury-Wodonga comes from our correspondent in Albury, Frank Finlay.

Frank writes with all the urgency of one who is determined to see Soccer move ahead — and he knows what big-time sport is all about.

He represented Hungary in the 1948 Olympic Games in London and came on to find his new home in Australia shortly afterwards.

He played First Division Soccer in Hungary and also for the national team — "the Cherry-pickers".

It is this knowledge of what goes on at the top that he

readily admits has led him to put his shoulder to the wheel at junior level.

Frank says that making something of our best juniors is the real hope of Soccer for Australia.

That is why he took on a representative team manager's job with his local association, and why he is so determined to use his journalistic ability to make things go ahead.

In Australia Frank has had 33 years as a journalist — and his specialty was covering some of the biggest trials such as the Petrov spy trial and the Thorpe kidnapping.

He has been in various states. He worked with the Sun in Melbourne, 3AW, Channel 9 Melbourne, the ABC in Sydney, 3BO Bendigo, 2GN Geelong and metropolitan papers in

Victoria, NSW and Queensland, and then for country dailies in NSW and at Mt Isa in Queensland.

He finished up with three years with the Border Mail in Albury and reckoned it was about time to retire.

But that took him into another sphere, working hard to raise the standard of Australian Soccer juniors.

Since 1981 his forceful character has turned to raising funds for juniors, and \$7,000 has come into the game as a result of his endeavours.

In some sections of the local media it has been well nigh impossible for Soccer to get a fair go. Frank Finlay, a real crusader for Soccer, has stepped in and is doing something worthwhile to redress the position.

BRIAN PUTS LIFE INTO SOCCER

ALBURY'S radio station 2AY Soccer commentator, Brian Wolff, can only be described as the media's "Ivanhoe" when it comes to promoting Soccer.

He has been closely connected with Soccer all his life, and has brothers in England who have played for Leeds United and Bristol City.

During his time with 2AY, he has encouraged his management to take more active role in the general promotion of Soccer here in Albury and Wodonga.

In the border complex, the biggest in Australia,

2AY and McDonalds have shown a great deal of support for Soccer.

McDonalds have been the major sponsors of the 2AY 'Soccer Notes' throughout 1983, compared by Brian.

2AY and McDonalds have joined in providing a perpetual trophy known as the 2AY-McDonalds Shield, for the first time in the history of the 10-year-old association.



In its inaugural presentation, Brian Wolff (left) 2AY's Soccer commentator, is seen presenting the trophy to this year's winning coach, Carlo Villani.



PICTURED is the Johnny Warren MBE Perpetual Trophy for the Best & Fairest Player in the Albury-Wodonga Soccer Assn. Johnny will be at Wagga on February 18 to conduct special coaching clinics for players in conjunction with the NSW Southern League Carnival.

JUNIOR FEATURE: SOCCER IN ALBURY

FRASER - FROM NEPEAN TO LAVINGTON

WAYNE Fraser, who started out as a Soccer junior in Sydney's Nepean District, is a regular representative team player for Albury-Wodonga.

It is particularly good to see youngsters starting out and then taking their Soccer interest and knowledge to major country districts.

Especially so in this case as Wayne acted as a regular Soccer commentator on Radio 2REM-FM and on AMV4 in 1983.

Wayne's senior career started with Albury United in the Victorian North Eastern Soccer League and then in Albury-Wodonga.

He next joined Hot-spurs in 1981 to play in the NSW Southern League.

Now he is with Lavington Soccer Club, and has coached the team to win the Riverina Cup in both 1982 and 1983.

Wayne's interest does not end with senior coaching. He holds a preliminary badge and has handled under 12 and 14 age-groups.

Enthusiasm such as this will do wonders in coming years for Soccer in vital country areas of NSW and Victoria.

CARLO SCORES

FRENCH-BORN Albury junior coach Caro Villani hit the jackpot at the end of the 1983 Albury-Wodonga Association's Soccer season.

His U14 Lavington Soccer Club team won the 1983 AWSA Cup.

The team was also awarded the Albury radio station 2AY-McDonalds shield for 'best team effort'.

Carlo Villani was also named as the AWSA rep team coach of the year, which gave him the 'Grand slam', the dream of many coaches.

Mr Villani, who also coaches the AWA U13 rep team, takes, teaches treats and trains his boys of both teams in a very serious manner.

Carlo is adamant he expostulates, and is sometimes stubborn when it comes to Soccer.

I've known him for many years, and although I do not see eye to eye with him in certain aspects of his beliefs concerning Soccer, I still lift my hat to him and respect him for what he has done.

"My boys are professionals and they are being treated as such. They stay in motels with breakfast served in bed," he said.

His French-born wife Danielle is one of his greatest supporters.

When I interviewed them they both gave me



the impression that there was some sadness in their voices and looks.

"You lack support for the juniors don't you?" I asked.

The petite Danielle, with her typical French accent, replied: "Promises, promises and promises. When time comes to pay up or shut up, they all shut up."

□ CARLO VILLANI shows his AWSA trophy for coach of the year.

"Eh bien, C'est la vie," Carlo added. "I hope that Carlo and his boys will repeat their performances this year. They deserve success."

PAUL IS WINNER

PAUL MILLYNN, a utility player, can only be described as a coaches dream.

The 18-year-old youngster was named as the best and fairest senior player of the year by his club, the Wodonga Diamonds.

His sheer determination and dedication took him 9 years to get on top and win the most precious title — a dream of all Soccer players.

When playing Soccer he reminds me of a chess player.

He is always a move ahead of his opposition, and his anticipation is immaculate and incredible.

His coach Lou Marcuzzi said "I can put him in any position. He will always produce what you expect of him."

I watched Paul many times. He is an unassuming and rather shy person off the field. But his style of attack and his hunger to get the ball off the opposition has been misinterpreted by spectators, referees and opposition players.

He reads the game, he kicks well and he pleases his supporters with his fast running and skill.



□ PAUL MILLYNN



□ IAN BARKER

BARKER OF THE BORDER

A LEADING Albury chemist, Ian Barker, was elected as secretary of the Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association for the 11th year.

A foundation and life member, Mr Barker is one of the most respected and competent sportsman in the border district.

Born in Melbourne, 49 years ago, he came to Albury at the age of two, and dedicated his last 30 years to promote Soccer, tennis, squash and hockey.

With his altruistic and assiduous work, Mr Barker has set a good example for future administrators of the AWSA.

After his election I had a talk to him about Soccer in 1984.

Ian, a man of stoic calm and few words, said "I am not a politician therefore I do not promise anything, but I will try to increase the standard of Soccer and promote juniors in a more effective way."

Ian was also partly responsible for the erection of the Margaret Smith tennis pavilion which was named after the Albury born world woman champion player. It cost \$96,000.

In all four sports which he has followed during the past 30 years, he had been secretary and president of the various associations.

One, recently, he was elected as life member of the Forrest Hill Tennis Club.

He is versatile, energetic and a Jack of all trades when it comes to sport and administration.



ONE BOY — AND NO DOG!

So you think Australia is the only place in the world where Soccer is played to empty grounds?

Think again. Believe it or not, this picture, published in the magazine PLACAR, was taken at a first division match in Brazil, the world's greatest Soccer nation.

The teams in opposition were Sao Paulo and Ferroviaria. The crowd was fewer than 1,000. And the capacity of the Morumbi Stadium in Sao Paulo is 150,000.

It's a good job the weather was fine. On a rainy day, perhaps even the boy would have been missing. Like the dog!



JOHN BARNWELL

GREEKS BLACKLIST UK TEAM BOSS

JOHN BARNWELL, former team manager of Wolves, has been barred for life from taking any active part in sport in Greece ... and the order comes at Government level.

Barnwell, who used to play for Arsenal before going into club management, was coach of AEK Athens.

He was with the club for only six months before being sacked.

According to the Greek Sports Ministry, Barnwell made defamatory comments about Greek football when he appeared on British television.

Now Greece's General Secretary of Sport, Kimon Koulouris, has come out with the following amazing statement: —

"If Barnwell seeks any form of employment in Greece in any sport, he will be turned down."

"He was only spared a

court sentence because he left the country. We are upset about what he said about football in Greece

on the TV programme." Even before he left Greece, Barnwell upset some of the locals when

he discussed his sacking. He claimed he had been made a scapegoat for the problems of AEK and the

real trouble in the club was caused by in-fighting between players and trouble with the management.

OLYMPIC GAMES VENUE?



BARCELONA is making a strong bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games and the organisers of the application have sent an attractive brochure to newspapers all over the world to help their cause.

This picture is included. It is, of course, the famous Camp Nou Stadium, home of Barcelona football club and the scene of the opening ceremony in the 1982

World Cup in Spain. Not a bad ground for the staging of the 1992 Olympic Games football final!

LUTHER LASHES OUT

LUTHER BLISSETT has hit back at his critics who claim the former Watford forward has been a giant flop with AC Milan.

Blissett claims he is being starved of ball service. "Milan's style of football is hopeless," he complained, adding, "the only way I can get the ball sometimes is by going back to the halfway line to collect it. Then I've got to beat three or four defenders before even having a shot at goal."

"I just cannot understand why they brought me here — they should have bought two midfield players."

"I set myself a target of 15 to 20 goals this season. I've scored three and the

season is half over," he lamented.

In the previous season, Blissett scored 30 goals for Watford.

Italian newspapers have been very critical of the English international but he denies he doesn't like Italy and doesn't

understand the Italian language.

It's a sad story. The climax is expected in a fortnight. That's when Milan's millionaire chairman Guiseppe Farina says he will make a definite decision about Blissett's future.

FIFA RULES

AT A FIFA meeting recently it was decided that the concept of registering 40

players and five on the reserve bench in World Cup tournaments be eliminated.

For the 1986 World Cup FIFA have stipulated that 22 players are to be registered a month before 31-5-86 and 20 players a week before 31-5-86.

MATCH DATES IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE draw and dates for this year's European Championship Finals in France were released recently and, even without glamour teams like Italy, England and Russia, it should be a great tournament.

The eight teams involved have been split into two Groups: —
GROUP 1. . . France, Denmark, Belgium, Yugoslavia.
GROUP 2. . . Portugal, West Germany, Romania, Spain.

Winners and runners-up will qualify from each Group.

Qualifying matches will be played from June 12 to June 20.

Semi-finals are scheduled for June 23 and the final will be played on June 27.



DOPING NET IS WIDER

IT HAS been decided to make dope tests at every match in the 1986 World Cup.

There were some people at FIFA favouring only random, sporadic tests but, on the urging of president Joao Havelange, and despite the cost and inconvenience, dope testing will be done at all games.

"Regardless of the cost, it is our duty to eliminate doping from football," said Dr Havelange.

OVERSEAS RESULTS

ITALY					Mannheim v Brunswick					Yannina v O'pikos				
	W	D	L	F A PTS										
Ascoli v F'ina	1-2					Cologne — Duesseldorf	2-2				Larisa v Aris	0-1		
Lazio v Genoa	2-1					postponed (ice)								
AC Milan v Roma	1-1													
Napoli v Juventus	1-1													
Pisa v Verona	0-3													
S'doria v Catania	2-0													
Torino v Inter	3-1													
Udinese v Avellino	2-1													

JUVENUS					SPAIN					BELGIUM				
	W	D	L	F A PTS										
Juventus	10	6	2	38 18 26		Espanol v Malaga	1-1				Club Bruges v A'lecht	1-1		
Torino	8	8	2	22 13 24		Betis v Valencia	3-2				Seraing v Courtrai	2-0		
F'ina	8	7	3	32 19 23		Real Madrid v Sociedad	0-0				Molenbeek v Lokeren	2-0		
Udinese	7	8	3	33 20 22		V'dolid v Cadiz	2-0				St Liege v Cer Bruges	2-0		
Roma	8	6	4	26 16 22		Sporting v Zaragoza	1-1				Antwerp v W'schel	4-2		
Verona	8	6	4	28 18 22		Murcia v Salamanca	1-0				Malines v Kuefe	1-0		

N. IRELAND					GREECE					WEST GERMANY				
	W	D	L	F A PTS										
Ards v C'raire	1-0													
Armagh v POSC	1-1													
B'clare v Newry	1-2													
B'bridge v Bangor	2-3													
Brantwood v Queens	2-2													
Carrick v Crusaders	1-1													
Crewe v Glenavon	0-5													
D'erry v Dunmurry	4-0													
HC Welders v Glentoran	0-4													
Institute v NUU	2-0													
I'magee v Portadown	0-3													
K'leagh v YC Dundela	1-3													
Limavady v Standard	5-1													
Limfield v Larne	1-0													
Omagh v C'ville	0-1													
Tobamore v Ballymena														

ENGLAND planned an international fixture against Belgium in Brussels — to raise money and also give the Belgians valuable match practice before this year's European Championship.

Belgium's coach Guy Thys was very enthusiastic about the match but has now been told it cannot be played.

The Belgian Football Association, remembering past visits by England to the Continent, says it does not want to run the risk of crowd riots by travelling English supporters.

A Belgian spokesman said: "To be honest, we are frightened of the English fans!"



MORTIMER STAYS AT VILLA

DENNIS MORTIMER has signed another contract with Aston Villa which will carry him through to June 1985.

There had been suggestions that the long-serving midfielder was about to be transferred but Mortimer was never keen to leave the club he has served so well for the past nine years.

Before joining Villa, he played for Coventry City and, in fact, while with that club, earned his first international honour ... touring Australia with the English F.A.XI.

It's interesting to re-

MIKE FLANAGAN

flect that among the other "unknowns" on that F.A. tour were Dave Watson and Mick Mills who went on earn countless English international caps.

THE FANS COME BACK

ALTHOUGH most football clubs in Britain are struggling to attract good attendances, it seems the Scottish Premier Division has arrested the decline in crowd figures.

It has done even better than that — it has increased gate figures.

From the start of this season until the end of December, 1,372,676 spectators watched Premier League games.

That is a substantial increase of 245,220 on the 1983 crowd figures for the same period.



BUTCHER'S BLUNDERS

IT SHOULD have been a day of celebration for Ipswich's English international centre-half Terry Butcher when he played his 250th game for the club.

But it turned out a nightmare.

In the first half, Butcher allowed Nick Hareford to score Birmingham's first goal. Butcher then put a header into his own net in the second half to give Birmingham a 2-1 victory.

Ipswich boss Bobby Ferguson, describing the Butcher own goal, said: "There didn't seem to be anyone near him. He just took his eye off the ball stepped back, and headed it into his own net."



THOMAS STAYS PUT

MICKEY THOMAS, the little Welsh winger, is tired of being labelled a player always on the move.

In his not very long career, Thomas has been with Wrexham, Manchester United, Everton, Brighton, Stoke City and now Chelsea.

But Thomas is determined to make Stamford Bridge his last stop. His two vital goals in his debut match against other promotion contenders Sheffield Wednesday, indicate Chelsea will be delighted if he loses his itchy feet gipsy image.

LIVERPOOL FOR THE SOUTHAMPTON boss Lawrie McMenemy and veteran forward Frank Worthington both agree that Liverpool are going to win the first division title again

"Liverpool are streets ahead of anyone else," said McMenemy. And Worthington added:

"Manchester United are a good side but Liverpool have the more complete team and can ride the pressure better."

These comments were made after Southampton lost 3-2 to United. But United captain Bryan Robson hit back with: "We will keep the heat on Liverpool all the way. I'm sure they'll crack in the end."

BUCKLEY'S CHANCE!

WALSALL player-manager Alan Buckley has been given a new two-year contract, but not simply because his directors want to be benevolent. Walsall are in top place in the third division ... a success story which could cause big clubs to try to lure away boss Buckley.

'WE CAN'T MAKE IT!'

HULL City didn't turn up for their match against Burnley at Turf Moor — a most unusual occurrence.

The match was postponed by the referee Ken Baker after he received a phone call from Hull manager Colin Appleton to say the visiting team was stranded and could not arrive by 3pm kick-off time.

Hull's team bus was at a motorway service station and the driver was advised by police not to travel on because of severe weather conditions.

FAN ATTACKS BRENTFORD SKIPPER

BRENTFORD captain Paul Roberts landed in all sorts of trouble when his team played at The Den against his old club, Millwall.

Roberts was attacked by a spectator who ran on to the pitch and the assailant was charged by police.

But that's not the whole story. It is alleged that the player ran towards spectators shaking his clenched fist and with his tongue out!

Now police say Roberts could be charged for "insulting behaviour."



A COUPLE OF REAL STRIKERS

CHARLTON ATHLETIC strikers, Derek Hales and Mike Flanagan, played in the same front line last week without fighting!

This was quite an achievement. The last time they played together for Charlton, they were BOTH sent off for fighting. (Each other, not the opposition.)

It was an unprecedented business. And when things cooled down, Hales swore he would never again play in the same team as Flanagan.

That was five years ago. Flanagan was transferred to QPR but has now returned to Charlton.

BIRMINGHAM FACING TAKEOVER

BIRMINGHAM City faces a takeover from millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell, who owns the Oxford United club.

If Maxwell does move in, you can be sure Birmingham manager Ron Saunders will move out.

Maxwell is a great admirer of Jim Smith, the Oxford manager, and would want Smith to join him at St Andrews.

Birmingham City is controlled by Keith Coombs whose shares are valued at \$1,700,000. Coombs is also bank guarantor to the tune of \$500,000.

Maxwell moved in at Oxford when that club faced bankruptcy.

He and Jim Smith have lifted the ailing team to the top of the Third Division to mount a promotion challenge.

Oddly enough, Smith was manager of Birmingham City, but he was sacked two years ago.



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BRUCE RIOCH SHOCK

BRUCE RIOCH, former Scottish international, has resigned as manager of Torquay United.

There is a lot of mystery surrounding the reasons for his exit.

It seems, however, there was an incident during a practice match at training and a Torquay player, Colin Anderson, was attacked.

The strange affair of Rioch inspired a comment from club chairman, Tony Boyce, that "the incident was 90 seconds of madness."

Jimmy Hargreaves has replaced Rioch, taking over as caretaker-manager.

WORRY AFTER WORRY



GRAEME SOU-NESS has an interesting philosophy on the life of a professional footballer.

The great Liverpool and Scotland midfielder says: "When you're a youngster you worry about getting a game in the first team. Once you're in, you worry about holding your place. For a couple of years — say at 26 or 27 — you feel you are getting somewhere and, after that, you start worrying about your age."

Souness admits it would be no surprise to see mature Liverpool players like Ken Dalglish, Phil Neal and Souness, himself, being replaced if good youngsters pop up.

ARDILES AT THE CROSSROADS

OSSIE ARDILES realises the next few months are crucial to his career in football with everything at stake.

The Tottenham midfielder, who helped Argentina win the World cup, has a plate in his injured leg and, at 31, is the wrong age to make a quick recovery.

But he says he is determined to fight to save his career.

That damaged leg is not the only problem facing Ardiles.

Many English spectators continue to boo him, as a hangover from the Falklands war in 1982.

"The booing is understandable — a natural reaction," said Ossie.

"It used to upset me but not any more. I know it's only done to put me off my games."

"Relations between my country and Britain are improving consistently with Argentina's change of Government. I had letters of apology from Manchester after United fans booed me."



□ OSSIE ARDILES: recovery

SEND FOR THE DOC

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC, the Scottish League club, are never short of expert medical opinion if anyone is injured.

Two of their players, goalie Hugh Whyte and defender Bob Robertson, are general practitioners.

And in case Hugh and Bob can't handle an injury, Dunfermline director John Yellowly, another doctor, is also available!



SCOT IS IN THE GOALS

TEN goals in 11 games ... that's the outstanding scoring record of Maurice Johnston since his \$320,000 transfer to Watford from Scotland's Partick Thistle.

Johnston (20) comes from the same area of Glasgow as Arsenal's Charlie Nicholas — and Celtic fancied him as replacement when they sold Nicholas to Arsenal.

But the Glasgow club wouldn't pay the money — so Watford stepped in and bought a winner.

WALSH ATTRACTS HUGE OFFERS

PAUL WALSH of Luton Town is now just about the hottest property in English football.

Walsh, a goalscoring forward, was in Australia last year with the touring England squad but did not look a particularly brilliant performer.

With the shortage of genuine stars in England, however, the wealthy clubs are in a big hurry to buy Walsh from Luton.

The two giants, Liverpool and Manchester United, are both very interested in signing up Walsh.

Indeed on a recent Saturday, Ron Atkinson, United's manager, stated he was going to watch Luton in action — with a special eye on Walsh.

That statement annoyed Luton boss David Pleat who certainly does not want to see his star player unsettled by this sort of talk.

It is estimated that Liverpool or United would pay \$1,200,000 for Walsh... and that is a very big fee these days since the end of the million pounds-plus transfers.

■ ■ ■
It has been a long spell out of first team football for Tottenham star Gary Mabbutt.

Gary has just recovered from a stomach injury, which caused him to miss 16 games.



□ PAUL WALSH in action against Steve O'Connor at the Sydney Cricket Ground



□ GEORGE BEST

BUSINESSMAN GEORGE BEST

GEORGE BEST is in the news again. The wayward Irishman has a coaching programme for television in the pipeline and hopes it will be shown on morning TV soon. The series will be watched only by shift workers and housewives in a country which is not enamoured by early morning television.

Best is also expected to go into business again. This time, he wants to open a bar-restaurant in London.

That hardly seems an

ideal occupation for a man who is constantly battling to remain sober.

By the way, Best says he will be in Australia again soon.